

Thieves make off with gold in daylight heist

RABAT (AFP) — Thieves in southern Morocco made off with 45 kilograms of gold after clearing shelves at a jewellery store in broad daylight, a newspaper said Monday.

Oscar-winning clay figures missing in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — A violent weather that has hit the Northeast may have claimed more victims than the storm itself. Oscar-winning clay figures were last seen in their display case along with other items in a New York City store after the storm hit. The store owner said the figures were missing and that the store was damaged.

Malaysia extends Jacko's concert by another day

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Monday that the country's decision to extend the concert of Michael Jackson by another day was a "very important decision."

Kabariti receives messages from S. Arabia, Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Tuesday received a cable from Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Berri reelected Lebanese speaker

BEIRUT (AFP) — Nabih Berri, head of the pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim Amal movement, was reelected Tuesday as speaker of the new Lebanese parliament for a four-year mandate.

### Arafat orders out 3 hostile MKs

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat expelled three right-wing Israeli members of Knesset (MKs) from a meeting Tuesday after they refused to shake his hand, one of the three said. The three deputies were members of the Israeli parliament's interior affairs committee, which was making a tour of Bethlehem when Mr. Arafat was also visiting the Palestinian self-rule town. The delegation was led by committee chairman Salah Tarif, an Arab-Israeli deputy from the opposition Labour Party. The three deputies who refused to shake Mr. Arafat's hand were Zeev Boim of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud bloc, Avraham Stern of the National Religious Party and Benny Eilon of the far right group Moledet, all fervent opponents of the Oslo peace accords. "We didn't know that Mr. Arafat was scheduled to meet us," Mr. Boim said on Israel radio after the incident.

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## Chirac arrives today on first visit to Jordan

### Hope high for effective French policy in region

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — French President Jacques Chirac arrives here today in his first visit to the Kingdom amid high hopes of an effective French policy in the Middle East and stronger relations with Jordan.

President Chirac, arriving here this evening from Ramallah as part of a one-week tour to the region, will confer with His Majesty King Hussein in a one-to-one meeting.

The French president will deliver a speech at the Parliament on Thursday that is expected to highlight



Jacques Chirac

speech to Parliament on France's perception of the Arab-Israeli peace process. Entitled Islam and the Society, the speech will also tackle France's "open

### France is more than a close friend to Jordan — envoy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — To Jordan, France has always been more than an ally and a close friend and with the coming to power of President Jacques Chirac, the bond has grown stronger and is likely to bring forth fruitful results, according to Jordan Ambassador to France Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf.

"I have no doubt" that Jordanian-French coordination will grow stronger, said Ambassador Sharaf in an interview with the Jordan Times. "The goodwill is there and the chemistry between His Majesty King Hussein and President Chirac is there."

On the other hand, has changed all," he said.

"As an observer of the European Union, I can appreciate very strongly the position of the (new) administration," he said.

France and Europe in general have been pushing for an effective role in the Arab-Israeli peace process, which has witnessed more downs than ups in recent months. The challenge before them has been mainly how to transform and expand their financial and economic support for the countries of the region into real political clout.

But Israel, especially under the leadership of the new right-wing government, has resisted attempts to strengthen the Europeans' hand in the region. The Israelis have publicly expressed dissatisfaction over recent political initiatives by Paris and other European Union (EU) capitals and showed a clear lack of desire to see a greater involvement by any other than the main peace broker, the U.S.

"What Israel wants is not necessarily what it should get," Ambassador Sharaf said.

Jordan had not only welcomed but had also urged for an increased French and European role in the region.

"We think Europe should get involved in the region. I see no reason whatsoever for (any country) to try to

## IAF uncharacteristically enthusiastic over new French approach to Mideast

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, long-time critics of the West's "imperialist" policies, are now welcoming, with great enthusiasm, French President Jacques Chirac and his government's recent initiative to raise the European profile in the search for Middle East peace.

"If great France has changed its policies towards the Arabs why wouldn't the Islamists change their position towards France?" asks

Islamic Action Front Deputy Hamman Sa'ed. "Islamists would say yes to France if it succeeded in standing up to the U.S.," Sheikh Sa'ed said.

The apparent shift on the part of the Islamists towards France stems from what they see as positive attitudes towards the Arab countries, especially since of President Chirac assumed power in May last year. Since then, the new president has adopted what is seen as a policy similar to that of the late General Charles de Gaulle towards the Arab World.

Hawks and doves within

the IAF, the largest political grouping in the country, who have given different signals about their attitudes towards the Kingdom's foreign policy, are now expressing collective enthusiasm at France's "pro-Arab" initiatives and recent declarations. The most important reason for the Islamists to welcome the new French policy is its promise of breaking the U.S. monopoly over its guardianship, observers say.

President Chirac, who will arrive here this evening

of a tour of the region, will arrive here this evening and will address Parliament on Thursday morning with the speech expected to focus on France's new Arab policy.

While the late French President Francois Mitterrand's policies towards the Middle East were rather "static," the new Gaullist president, who took power in May last year, is determined to animate a new Arab policy that restores confidence and credibility in France as an ally and a friend, Ambassador Sharaf said.

"The late President (Mitterrand) reached a point in internal and external policies that could be described as static," President Chirac,

after Mr. Ross announced Monday he would end his intense mediation in the negotiations launched Oct. 6 with the two sides still far from an accord for implementation of the Hebron pull-out.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian team huddled with President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah while the Israeli side was due to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for consultations ahead of the evening's talks.

Both leaders earlier evoked the possibility of a summit meeting in order to cap off a Hebron accord, although neither set a timetable.

"I said several days ago that the negotiations were near to conclusion, it was true then and it's true today," Mr. Netanyahu said during a press conference with visiting French President Jacques Chirac. "I hope that when we are on the home stretch, a meeting with Arafat can wrap up these negotiations."

Mr. Arafat, quoted by Palestinian Television, said he was "prepared to meet

## Just peace only on basis of 242 and 338, Crown Prince tells Sorbonne audience

PARIS (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday that comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by honouring U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, under the formula of land-for-peace.

The Crown Prince said in a speech delivered at Sorbonne University in Paris that "if the bulk of public opinion in Israel supports the notion of peace based on agreed principles, as it does, and if the peoples of the Arab World still yearn for comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, as they do, then the parties in the

region will have to look beyond day-to-day events towards this long-term objective and deal with the situation at hand on that basis."

The Crown Prince stressed that "conflict in the past had been the ruin of the region, and that it must not be the way of the future."

However, the Crown Prince also warned that the underlying problems of the region must be addressed.

"I do not believe that there will be another Arab-Israeli war. But any scenario which fails to address the underlying problems of the region would be equal-

ly disastrous. A return to the no-war, no-peace status that preceded the present peace process would destroy the economies of the region no less surely than a war," he added.

Crown Prince Hassan emphasised the need for the political process of negotiation to be backed up by the economic process of peace-building, as embodied in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit process, as well as the cultural process of reconciliation and mutual understanding, as embodied in

## Ross reports 'most promising' talks on Hebron after putting off return home in surprise move

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Dennis Ross said Tuesday that 17 days of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were at their "most promising" point yet as he decided in a surprise move to extend his marathon mediation of the talks.

Mr. Ross abruptly cancelled a midnight flight back to Washington in order to attend a late-night Monday session of talks on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron which he said "was the most promising discussion to date."

The U.S. diplomat said in a statement that he spent Tuesday "in consultations with both sides and ... will have another intensive session with them" in the evening.

He said the late-night talks yielded "significant progress" on civilian issues connected to the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, now seven months behind schedule according to the 1995 Oslo self-rule accords.

The reports of progress were a last-minute surprise

after Mr. Ross announced Monday he would end his intense mediation in the negotiations launched Oct. 6 with the two sides still far from an accord for implementation of the Hebron pull-out.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian team huddled with President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah while the Israeli side was due to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for consultations ahead of the evening's talks.

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Mr. Arafat, quoted by Palestinian Television, said he was "prepared to meet

Mr. Netanyahu when he is ready to implement the agreements."

Talks have focused on Israeli demands that the blueprint for the Hebron withdrawal laid out in the Oslo accords be changed to provide greater security guarantees for 400 Jewish settlers living amid Hebron's 120,000 Palestinians.

Israel was to have withdrawn from 80 per cent of the city last March, leaving only a force to protect Jewish settlements, but handing civilian control in the entire city to the Palestinians.

Along with stronger security, Israel now demands greater civilian control than is provided for in the Oslo agreements to prevent Palestinians from having municipal authority over Jews.

In particular, Israel was to hold the reins on future expansion of the settlements and to limit Palestinian building near the Jewish areas.

The Palestinians refuse

### Kabariti receives messages from S. Arabia, Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Tuesday received a cable from Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The message also praised security cooperation between the two countries, Petra said, adding that Prince Nayef stressed the importance of enhancing ties in various fields.

Mr. Kabariti also received Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Ahmet Umar who relayed to him a message from Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller on bilateral relations and the recent developments in the region, Petra said. The Turkish message was also believed to have dealt with a pending visit to Jordan by Mrs. Ciller.

### Berri reelected Lebanese speaker

BEIRUT (AFP) — Nabih Berri, head of the pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim Amal movement, was reelected Tuesday as speaker of the new Lebanese parliament for a four-year mandate. He obtained 121 out of a possible 128 votes, with four members of parliament casting blank ballots and three deputies voting against him. Under Lebanon's confessional system of religious quotas, the speaker of parliament must be a Shiite. The new parliament was elected in August and September polls for four years with an overwhelming majority of pro-Syrian members. Only about 10 candidates not backed by powerful coalitions managed to get elected.

## Israeli security irks French president

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A red-faced French President Jacques Chirac, teeth clenched and elbows flailing, snapped a sharp command to omnipresent Israeli security men during a visit to Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday: "Go away."

They ignored the presidential decree, drawing a complaint from the ruffled French leader to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who apologised for any overzealousness in trying "to protect a friend."

"This is provocation. Stop this now. Do you want me to go back to my plane and go home to France?" Mr. Chirac protested in English to the head of security.

For Mr. Chirac, it was his first taste of the kind of all-embracing protection that has been in force in Israel for local and visiting foreign leaders since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Jew almost a year ago.

He did not want it and he did not like it.

"The president very specifically requested light security," Mr. Chirac's spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told reporters.

She said: "The behaviour of Israeli security forces caused unacceptable agitation."

Meeting Mr. Chirac later in the day, Mr. Netanyahu

## Talabani wants immediate truce

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani said Tuesday that his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) was ready to accept an unconditional ceasefire with the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in northern Iraq.

"I hope we are close to a ceasefire," Mr. Talabani told reporters after talks here with U.S. assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau aimed at securing a truce.

"We have no conditions for a ceasefire," the PUK leader said. "I agree to stop fighting tomorrow."

Mr. Talabani said he was ready to meet KDP leader Massoud Barzani and had

heard that his rival could also agree to a truce.

Mr. Pelletreau proposed a ceasefire plan to Mr. Barzani on Monday in a bid to end a recent spate of fighting between their two factions in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

It was not immediately clear how and when a ceasefire might take place.

The fighting — which has continued intermittently since Mr. Barzani invited Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to intervene and help capture the main city of Erbil from Mr. Talabani's forces in late August — has hurt Washington's anti-Baghdad efforts.

## World Bank to lend Jordan \$120 million

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank is expected to lend Jordan \$120 million, raising the bank's assistance to the Kingdom this year to about \$175 million, a bank official said Tuesday.

Part of the loan is expected to be used in various sectors focusing on socio-economic development to help build what has come to be known as the "social safety net" — facilities that would help the needy and poor to absorb the short-

term impact of economic reforms.

Indirectly, the loan will free government funds and achieve a better national balance of payments to boost the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves.

The loan, repayable in 17 years with a grace of four years, will carry an annual interest of around seven per cent, said Inder Sud, head of the Middle East department of the bank.

The World Bank, which borrows from the international market for relending, levies its actual

cost of borrowing plus half a per cent on its loans.

The rate is applicable to all debtors of the World Bank without distinction. Mr. Sud noted that the World Bank's current cost of borrowing in international market was about 6.9 per cent.

The \$120 million loan will raise to World Bank assistance to Jordan in 1996 to around \$175 million. The bank has already lent Jordan \$40 million to help the Kingdom's export sector and another unspecified amount is in the pipeline in

loans to the tourism sector.

"However, the \$175 million is not an absolute figure," said Mr. Sud, noting that the final amount of World Bank assistance to Jordan this year would depend on how soon additional loans could be finalised.

The World Bank loan is also expected to raise Jordan's foreign exchange reserves to nearly \$800 million, close to the target of \$900 million, equivalent to three months of imports,

## Israeli ambassador sees Hebron deal signing 'in next few days'

Kabariti meets Shimon Shamir; envoy says progress also reached on trade and transport

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir said Tuesday that Israel and the Palestinians were close to agreement on an Israeli deployment from the West Bank town of Hebron and a formal accord could be signed in the "next few days."

Mr. Shamir also told Jordan Television after a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that Jordanian-Israeli committees had also made progress in expanding trade between the Kingdom and the Jewish state as well as the Kingdom and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that during the meeting Ambassador Shamir briefed Mr. Kabariti on the progress achieved in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Mr. Shamir told Jordan Television: "There is a substantial progress in talks with regard to the town of Hebron. There is an agreement between the two sides on security issues and that the agreement on (Israeli) redeployment in Hebron will be signed within the next few days."

His Majesty King Hussein is closely following the developments in the negotiations. Throughout last week and this week, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross have

kept him informed of progress in the negotiations.

On Monday, the King was in touch with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Ross as well as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, emphasising the need to bridge all differences between the two sides.

Mr. Shamir told Jordan Television he discussed with Mr. Kabariti "several issues of common concern" and that "in the past few weeks joint Jordanian-Israeli committees held meetings which resulted in substantial progress on expanding trade" between the two countries and between Jordan and the PNA.

Agreement was also reached between enhancing transport links between Jordan and Israel, he said, adding that the two sides agreed to launch flights between Haifa and Amman.

The ambassador's comment indicated a slow thaw in relations between Jordan and Israel following what Jordanian officials described as a "crisis of confidence" between the two following Israeli actions in Arab East Jerusalem.

It was the first reported meeting between Mr. Kabariti and Ambassador Shamir after the prime minister summoned the diplomat in late September and lodged a strongly-worded protest against Israel's "unilateral

(Continued on page 7)



# Emir of Qatar names 18-year-old officer son as crown prince

DOHA (AFP) — The emir of Qatar on Tuesday appointed his 18-year-old son, a graduate of a British military academy, as crown prince, a post that had been vacant since a bloodless palace coup last year.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani named his third son Sheikh Jassem, as the new heir to the throne after consulting his other sons and tribal chiefs, the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) said.

Sheikh Jassem, a Qatari army officer who returned home after graduating from Britain's elite Sandhurst Military Academy last month, was appointed for his "competency and efficiency," a decree from the emir read.

It was the first step in a reshuffle of the country's top jobs expected to introduce changes to its vital energy industry.

Sheikh Jassem, a second lieutenant in the Qatari army, is one of four sons of the emir. Diplomats and officials said the emir was also expected to name his brother, Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani, prime minister.

Western-educated Sheikh Abdullah was named deputy prime minister and interior minister after Sheikh Hamad toppled their father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, in June 1995.

The new emir himself had been prime minister since then.

The decree naming the crown prince said the emir consulted other members of the royal family, the largest single family in Qatar, about the appointment as well as tribal leaders, members of the consultative council and the armed forces.

Diplomats and officials had said on Monday the emir

was expected to announce this week a cabinet reshuffle that was widely expected to include setting up a supreme council of energy to replace the energy and industry ministry.

The current minister, Abdullah Ben Hamad Al Attiyah, who has held the energy portfolio since 1992 and heads most of Qatar's energy projects, may move to the public health ministry. The emir was expected to head the new council himself, officials said.

Qatar is a small oil exporter whose native population of 130,000 is among the world's richest with gross national product of \$22,000 each. Some 440,000 foreigners, mostly from the Indian subcontinent and Iran, work in Qatar.

Qatar's oil reserves are overshadowed by its natural gas deposits which are exceeded only by those of Russia and Iran.

The diplomats and officials said the looming cabinet reshuffle, which had been expected in September, gained momentum after the ruling family said on Sunday it had ended a row over billions of dollars missing from the treasury since the former emir was ousted.

They said the changes were prompted by the need to give adequate representation to different sections of the ruling Al Thani family.

Some new faces were also expected in the reshuffled cabinet.

The diplomats and officials said the settlement between the emir and the father he deposed helped consolidate Sheikh Hamad's power and paved way for the expected appointments.

They said the deposed emir was expected to return to Qatar soon as part of the settlement over the disputed accounts. Unofficial estimates say the sum controlled by the deposed emir ranged from \$3 billion to \$7 billion.

Commenting on the expected changes in government, a political source said: "It's the first time in Qatar's history that there is a separation between the powers of the emir and head of government."

Qatari political sources expressed surprise at Sheikh Jassem's appointment not only because his eldest brother Sheikh Mishaal was passed over for the job but also because he had previously played no political role.

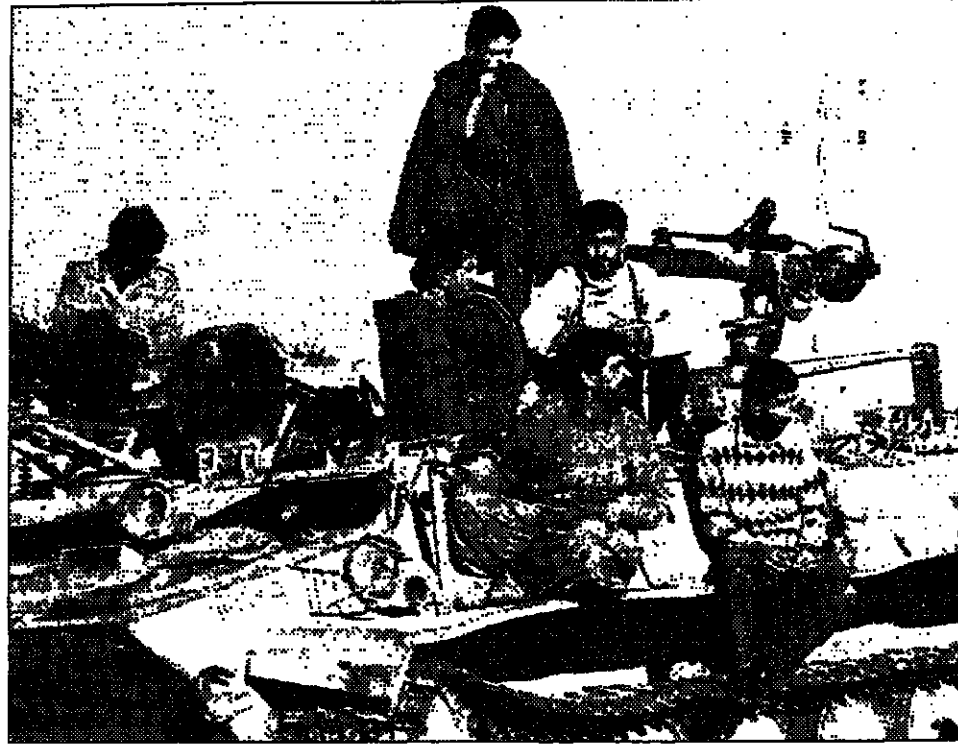
"He never showed any particular political interest," a Qatari political source said, asking not to be named.

On the other hand, Sheikh Mishaal travelled to Russia, Japan and China with the foreign minister, while second son Fahd achieved prominence after he fought on the frontlines with Qatari forces during the 1991 Gulf war.

The youngest son Tamim, 17, had also appeared next to his father during negotiations with Saudi Arabia to resolve a border dispute.

But a Western diplomat stressed that Sheikh Jassem was viewed as well qualified. "He's well educated. He speaks English fluently. He speaks French fluently."

The 46-year-old Sheikh Hamad is also a graduate of Sandhurst.



Kurdistan Democratic Party fighters sit atop an armoured personnel carrier near the northern Iraqi town of Rany in northern Iraq amid heavy fighting on several other fronts with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (Reuters photo)

## Iraqi dissidents airlifted to Guam

DIYARBAKIR (AFP) — Nearly 600 Iraqi dissidents left here Tuesday en route for the U.S. territory of Guam where they will be considered for political asylum.

The group, who had been evacuated from northern Iraq at the weekend, left Diyarbakir for the U.S. airbase at Incirlik in southern Turkey.

They were to have left for the Pacific Island of Guam on Monday. No reason was given for the delay, nor any indication as to how long they would stay at Incirlik.

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said they would be interviewed on Guam to confirm whether

they would be granted political asylum in the United States.

He said he expected the "overwhelming majority" would be given asylum.

However, more than 100 of the refugees, whose evacuation started Saturday, returned to northern Iraq after being turned away, the local sources added, saying they did not know the reason why they had been refused entry.

The dissidents are for the most part members of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of groups opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

They fled the towns of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah after they were captured by

the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

In the ebb and flow of fighting since then, the PUK has managed to retake Sulaimaniyah but not Erbil, where the INC was based.

The United States, Britain and Turkey have urged the two Kurdish factions to agree to an immediate ceasefire.

Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, was due to meet Tuesday with PUK leader Jalal Talabani. He met KDP leader Massoud Barzani on Monday.

## Turkey insists no Turks in its casinos

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Islamist-led government has demanded stricter implementation of its recent ban on Turks entering the country's casinos, an interior ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

He said Interior Minister Mehmet Agar had sent a note to all provincial governors warning them to tighten identity checks at casinos to keep Turks out. "According to some press reports, customers' passports are not being checked when they enter the casinos," spokesman Ibrahim Saracoglu told Reuters. The government last month ordered that Turks be excluded from casinos, saying that families were being broken up by gambling. There are also wide concerns that the gambling industry is used for money laundering. Leading figures in the casino industry, which depends primarily on domestic gamblers, have protested at the ban. Casino revenues have already been hit by a previous order that restricted weekday opening hours and imposed a dress code. Casinos do good business in tourist areas on the Aegean and Mediterranean coast.

## Algerian forces kill five, seize bombs

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian security forces killed five militants and seized about 100 home-made bombs at Megta-Kheira between Kolea and Zeralda west of Algiers, Al Watan daily reported Tuesday.

Monday's operation followed several bomb attacks by suspected extremists in the region since the middle of the year, in which more than 40 people have died and almost 200 others were injured.

Reports also said the death toll from a clash on Monday between security forces and two suspected fundamentalist gangs in the teeming district of Algiers was 13 among the armed extremists.

The mayor of central Algiers, Ali Boucetta, was fatally wounded by a stray bullet.

On Oct. 11, a blast at a Kolea market killed 10

people and injured more than 70 others.

Several other bombs were defused in a working-class estate close to the market. On July 20, five people were killed and 30 wounded in an explosion at a cafe in the same town, 30 kilometres west of Algiers.

A car bomb in a street market at Boufarik, about 10 kilometres south of Kolea, killed 27 people and wounded more than 70 on Sept. 27.

Muslim fundamentalists have waged a guerrilla war against the secular regime since the cancellation in January 1992 of the second round of general elections the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Some 50,000 people, mainly civilians, have been killed, according to Western estimates.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rifkind to visit Israel, Palestinian territories

LONDON (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind will make a tour of the Middle East Nov. 3-6, including visits to Israel and the Palestinian territories, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen, the foreign office announced Tuesday. It said Mr. Rifkind, who last visited Israel and the territories a year ago, would meet on Nov. 3 with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy, and in Gaza with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He was to go to the UAE Nov. 4-5 and Yemen Nov. 5-6, holding talks with officials on regional and security issues including recent developments in Iraq, said the foreign office. In the UAE Mr. Rifkind was to give a speech focusing on "progress for peace, prosperity and progress" in the region. Mr. Rifkind said in a statement his trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories would be focusing on the peace process. "I will be reinforcing with the Israelis and the Palestinians the need for urgent progress, our support for the efforts by the parties to reach a just and durable peace settlement, and our willingness to work with our friends in the region to achieve that outcome," he said.

### Two losers protest Kuwaiti election result

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Two candidates who failed to win seats in Kuwait's parliamentary elections are contesting the result, saying illegal voters swung the poll against them, newspapers said on Tuesday. Liberal candidate Ali Al Baghli and tribal candidate Saadoun Al Otaibi, who stood in different constituencies for the Oct. 7 poll to the 50-seat national assembly, have submitted petitions to the constitutional courts. Mr. Baghli, who was campaigning for reelection, is claiming that some people were illegally registered in his constituency, and these voters pushed him behind the two winners and a third candidate. Kuwaiti papers said, Mr. Otaibi, who came third in his constituency, claims some voters included members of the armed forces or policemen who are not allowed to vote under the electoral laws that also exclude women and some naturalised Kuwaitis, the papers added. About 107,000 men were eligible to vote in the poll, which returned a pro-government dominated parliament that held its first sitting on Sunday. The papers said the constitutional courts will assess both claims to see if there were enough illegally registered voters to change the result and to determine if new polls should be held. Revotes were held in two constituencies after the 1992 elections following similar complaints by losing candidates.

### Geneva clamps down on Saudi building plans

GENEVA (AFP) — Swiss authorities have put a stop to construction work at the huge lake lagoon property of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, judicial sources said. Police closed the construction site on Monday, after a Swiss court ruled in favour of lakeside inhabitants who have opposed the king's large-scale projects on his vast property for years. The incident is the latest in a series of stops and delays since King Fahd decided he would build eleven low-rise villas around his lakeside palace, in which he has never lived as it was too small to fit his numerous escort. Besides the villas, expected to cover a total surface of 0.6 hectares, the king planned garages to house a fleet of expensive cars, and an underground network of tunnels linking one building to the next. Bernard Ziegler, a former Geneva councillor who has headed the campaign against King Fahd's plans, applauded Monday's intervention, saying some people had "a slight tendency to overlook the law," those who oppose the king's plans argue that they cannot be undertaken on the lakeside so close to the forest. Earlier this year the king was fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$15,000) for allowing some 20 trees to be cut down to make room for his project.

### Secret Palestinian reports sent to settler

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish settler on the West Bank claims to have received by fax numerous confidential reports addressed to Yasser Arafat by the Palestinian secret service, it was reported Tuesday. The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot published on Tuesday a reproduction of one of the faxed messages allegedly received by Rubi Steiner, a resident of the Alfei Menashe settlement in the northern West Bank. In one fax dated Oct. 16, Palestinian negotiators tell Mr. Arafat that U.S. mediator Dennis Ross "is supporting Israeli positions and we can't count on the United States to pressure Israel after the upcoming (American) elections," the newspaper said. The same fax reportedly advised Mr. Arafat "to use the visit of French President Jacques Chirac to build European pressure on Israel" over the issue of Israel's delayed withdrawal from Hebron. Several of the faxes bore the signature of Mohammad Dahlan, head of the secret service in Gaza and a leading negotiator on security matters.

## Aid group alarmed over Afghan health

GRENOBLE (AFP) — Afghanistan is facing a humanitarian crisis this winter, as health facilities struggle to cope with desperate shortages amid the country's civil war, a French medical charity said Tuesday.

Medecins du Monde said the implementation of strict Islamic law by Taliban militia in Kabul was not helping, depriving hospitals of female staff in an already difficult situation.

"Public health is threatened in this country," said doctor Guy Causse, who said the charity had been forced to reduce its services

by half since the Taliban arrived.

"Winter is going to be terrible in Kabul. There is no heating. Families are living on tea and bread. Half the children are suffering from malnutrition or infections. We are facing a serious humanitarian crisis."

The Taliban seized Kabul on Sept. 27 after an 11 month siege. Under their strict religious codes, the city's 25,000 female workers have been ordered to stay at home and wear the veil.

"Women can no longer get treatment, because there are no women to treat the

women," said Dr. Causse, estimating that about 10 per cent of women workers are defying the religious laws to go to work.

Hospitals already reduced to rubble by 16 years of war are being even further stretched. "Resources for paediatric services are down by 75 per cent, as are those for women," said Dr. Causse, just back from the war-torn country.

The charity is still employing about 50 women for its work, transporting them around in minibuses. But said Causse: "From now on we can only cope with emergency cases."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 .....Muppet Show  
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
15:00 .....Pyramide  
15:30 .....Serie  
15:30 .....Les Compagnons de l'Adventure  
16:00 Doc. — Earth Revealed  
16:30 .....Blizzard Island  
17:00 .....News Flash  
17:15 .....The Adventures  
17:30 .....Kelly  
18:00 .....Ushuaia  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Magazine — Sports  
Et Musique  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Four Seasons  
20:00 .....Super Stars of Action  
20:30 .....Challenges  
21:10 .....NBA  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Drama — Bugs  
23:15 .....Hart to Hart  
23:59 .....Comedy — Who is the Boss?

### PRAYER TIMES

04:23 .....Fajr  
05:40 .....Sunrise/Duha  
11:20 .....Dhuhr  
14:30 .....Asr  
17:00 .....Maghreb  
18:17 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Relative cold weather conditions will prevail with skies partly cloudy. There will be a chance for scattered showers particularly in the northern part of the Kingdom and winds southwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly

moderate and seas calm.

Amman .....13/22

Aqaba .....20/31

Deserts .....12/25

Jordan Valley .....18/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 31 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Ayman Al Muntaseb 875748

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507

Dr. Jamal Jbarah .....847351

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....390280

Al Asema pharmacy .....637055

Al Salam pharmacy .....636730

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID: Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh .....250080

Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA: Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid .....986702

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhass, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen/77101/3

Al-Bashir .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital

(03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08532501.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

07:00 .....Damascus (RJ)

08:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)

08:55 .....Larnaca (RJ)

09:10 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

15:50 .....Madrid (RJ)

16:30 .....Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

17:00 .....Paris (RJ)



# Foreign labourers taking up too many jobs — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Minister of Labour Tuesday complained that guest labourers in Zarqa, most of them working without valid permits, are taking up positions that could be occupied by the governorate's 12,000 registered unemployed residents.

The total number of guest workers there, said Minister Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh while on visiting the governorate, is estimated to be 40,000, and of those only 2,410 hold work permits.

The guest workers outnumber unemployed Jordanians by 70 per cent.

Dr. Shakhanbeh met with local officials to discuss labour-related issues and said that the governorate has 2,522 institutions and private firms employing about 41,550 workers in the private sector and another 45,000 as civil servants.

The Ministry of Labour has issued 278 orders to foreign workers without valid work permits to leave the country, but only 50 per cent of the workers in question have been deported so far, said Dr. Shakhanbeh.

A source at the Ministry of Labour told the Jordan Times last week that the ministry was seeking to reduce the estimated 400,000 foreign workers in the Kingdom to around 100,000 and has recently imposed bans employing foreigners in 15 trades and professions ranging from nursing to hair-dressing.

Dr. Shakhanbeh said the ministry was implementing government directives stipulating that clean-up crews in private com-

panies and hospitals can be made up of no more than 10 per cent foreign labour.

As for the government, he said that no department currently employs foreign labour but that problems remain with the University of Jordan, Muta University and Yarmouk University.

Official figures show that unemployment in Jordan is nearing 15 per cent, but unofficial estimates claim it is up to 20 per cent.

Dr. Shakhanbeh announced that a three-day conference on labour wages will be held next month by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour. He said he hoped that the meeting will help the ministry set a minimum and maximum wage for labourers.

He urged the Zarqa Governorate's firms and institutions and the municipality of Zarqa to help adjust the labour market by monitoring all work areas, including street vendors, and to halt the issuance of street vending licences to foreigners because the law prohibits foreigners from such activities.

During the visit, Dr. Shakhanbeh was briefed by Governor Eid Qatameh on the labour situation in the governorate.

The minister later toured several factories and firms urging their managements to help apply the Labour Law. He also visited a vocational training centre where he was briefed on its programmes.

# Kabariti, commerce officials discuss formation of new economic council

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday emphasised the private sector's role in economic development as well as the need to join with the public sector in this regard.

Mr. Kabariti's remarks came during a meeting attended by the Presidents of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Jordan Businessmen's Association.

The prime minister discussed the formation of an economic council with private sector representatives which would follow up on economic policies and legislation.

The proposed council would be headed by the prime minister himself and would include members representing related ministries in addition to the private sector.

Private sector representatives said the proposal would provide an effective tool for tracking progress in the implementation of



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday meets with President of the Jordan Businessmen's Association Hamdi Tabba'a, President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khaldoun Abu Hassan and President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad (Petra photo)

Dughmi for appointing a notary public at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, maintaining that this might facilitate commercial transactions.

Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan described the meeting as a

made to reconsidering economic legislation in order to bridge any gaps hampering economic progress.

# Experts review radiation protection methods

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Hosni Abu Ghaida Tuesday called for increased coordination between specialised global organisations in curtailing radiation and protecting the environment.

Speaking at the opening session of "Scientific Day," held at the Professional Associations Complex, Mr. Abu Ghaida maintained as a critical issue that Jordan adopt a strategy on radiation and nuclear waste protection.

"The Kingdom has already approved national strategies for environmental protection in agricultural, industrial, energy and other fields, as well as the means to combat desertification but what remains undone is protective measures against radiation caused by nuclear waste," said Mr. Abu Ghaida.

"The JEA is concerned with environmental protection which is menaced by sundry pollutants including noxious gases, at times dumped in residen-



Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali (third right) Tuesday attends a scientific conference presided over by Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Hosni Abu Ghaida (fourth right) (Petra photo)

tial areas, and other organisations which unload both solid and liquid waste and pollute underground water resources, destroy trees and increase the salinity level of the soil," he added.

The association president maintained that it is each individual's responsibility to help protect against environmental menaces and should not fall on engineers alone.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali addressed the session describing nuclear techniques as being constantly upgraded and that

nuclear applications exist in agriculture, industry, water, medicine and the environment.

The meeting participants deliberated issues regarding radiation and its varied effects as well as human protection from the rays.



RUSSIAN-JORDANIAN TIES: Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi Tuesday meets with President of the Union of Russian Friendship Societies Yuri Parascinov to review and promote relations with the federation (Petra photo)

# Islamic Hospital proposes establishment of medical waste incinerator

AMMAN (Petra) — Calling the amount of waste generated by hospitals, laboratories and blood banks, "dangerous," the Islamic Hospital on Tuesday requested a central incinerator for the Amman governorate to dispose of such hazardous material.

The hospital announced the submission of a memorandum to the requisite authorities for such measures to be taken.

Head of the hospital's maintenance department Bassam Masaadeh claimed an urgent need for the proposed incinerator as these institutions produce toxic waste estimated at 1.3 to 1.5 tonnes daily.

He said that a copy of the memorandum was sent to the various ministries concerned with the issue.

Medical waste and other substances following surgical procedures as well as syringes and other materials are considered as most hazardous to the general public because they are mediums for disease transmission, Mr. Masaadeh said.

Although some hospitals do have their own incinerators for the disposal of medical waste, Mr. Masaadeh claimed that many still have no alternative means of disposal other than collection by municipality sanitation pick-up trucks.

He said the memorandum suggested that the proposed incinerator be located somewhere along the ring road surrounding Amman or any other location selected by the Amman Municipality provided it would be distant enough from residential areas to avert contamination from smoke emissions. The incinerated medical waste can then be dumped with other ordinary refuse, he added.

According to Mr. Masaadeh, the cost of building and operating such an incinerator is estimated at JD500,000 and would benefit every hospital.

Hospital Deputy Director Ahmad Qasem said the Islamic Hospital has an incinerator which weekly consumes about 1,400 kilograms of waste.

He said that the process results in a 90 per cent reduction of the original waste load.

He also said that the government was providing incentives and support to facilitate investments in hotels and other tourist affiliated organisations.

Director of the Aqua Marina Hotel in Aqaba Simon Khouri briefed the visitors on tourist facilities in Aqaba, Wadi Rum, Petra and other tourist sites.

The business owners' complaints came less than a week after municipality and Ministry of Supply inspectors were allegedly attacked in two separate incidents by business-owners while on duty.

The official called on shopkeepers and citizens to report inspector misconduct, saying that any official found guilty of such misconduct will either be issued a warning, receive a salary deduction, or risk losing his/her job.

"The ministry takes every complaint seriously, and will take the legal and necessary action against those who either abuse or offend," the ministry official told the Jordan Times.

The inspectors are supposed to first indicate violations to offending parties but if there is a pattern of such mistakes the inspectors will issue a fine," he explained.

Two weeks ago, street vendors and merchants in various sections of Amman complained of having been harassed by inspectors working for the Greater Amman Municipality and the Ministry of Supply.

The business owners charged that inspectors of both departments were actively probing minor infractions and that inspectors were capriciously issuing fines.

These allegations were denied by officials from both departments.

"The inspectors are not perfect, and some might

# Irsheidat encourages tourism to visiting Belgians

AQABA (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat urged visiting Belgian tour operators and travel agents to encourage more of their compatriots and other Europeans to visit Jordan.

The minister Tuesday accompanied the visitors to the city of Petra following a visit to Aqaba and said that a total of 7,400 Belgian tourists visited the Kingdom last year.

He stated his hope that this number will increase and said that the Petra region has recently accelerated construction of hotels and other facilities, which in turn will help boost the tourist industry.

Dr. Irsheidat told the visitors that the private sector has been instrumental in organising group visits.

He emphasised the Kingdom's bounteous archaeological treasures.

"We look for support from our Belgian friends whom we consider as partners in helping Jordan attract more visitors from Belgium and Europe to enjoy trips to the Dead Sea and health spas here," said Dr. Irsheidat.

He said that Jordan enjoys stability and security; two essential elements for economic progress, that its people are hospitable and that the country annually witnesses increased tourism.

According to the minister, Jordan earned \$700 million in tourist revenues last year and registered 1,074 million tourists.

He also said that the government was providing incentives and support to facilitate investments in hotels and other tourist affiliated organisations.

Director of the Aqua Marina Hotel in Aqaba Simon Khouri briefed the visitors on tourist facilities in Aqaba, Wadi Rum, Petra and other tourist sites.

# Ministry suspends allowance of 13 inspectors

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Ministry of Supply official source Tuesday announced the allowance suspension of 13 employees at the ministry for a one-year period as a penalty for misuse of a public post.

"We have received several complaints from business owners during the past three months that some ministry employees were abusing their post for personal benefit," the ministry official said.

The 13 employees, all shop and restaurant inspectors, have been found by a ministry investigative committee to have been abusing their authority during the past few months, according to the ministry official.

He explained that the inspectors' jobs is to respectfully check on shop-

keepers' prices, supplies and validation dates to duly enforce ministry regulations.

"Inspectors are supposed to first indicate violations to offending parties but if there is a pattern of such mistakes the inspectors will issue a fine," he explained.

Two weeks ago, street vendors and merchants in various sections of Amman complained of having been harassed by inspectors working for the Greater Amman Municipality and the Ministry of Supply.

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These allegations were denied by officials from both departments.

"The inspectors are not perfect, and some might

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WELCOMES

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF

THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

JACQUES CHIRAC

AND THE ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR VISIT TO THE

KINGDOM AS GUESTS OF

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

# WHAT'S GOING ON

ITALIAN FILM WEEK

\*Two films entitled "Sostiene Pereira" (Pereira Holds) and Regalo di Natale (Christmas Present) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

FILM

\*"A Passage to India" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

\*"Novelty and Heritage in Arabic Literature" by Dr. Nadim Na'imeh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

\* Egyptian products exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, Marj Al Hamam, until Oct. 29.

\* Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St., until Oct. 30.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, President of the Young Muslim Women's Association, has delegated Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Al Hassan to inaugurate the 11th Italian Film Week in Jordan organised by the Embassy of Italy and the Ministry of Culture. The Italian Film Week will take place from October 22 and until the 29th, 1996 at the Main Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre. All films are in Italian with English subtitles. Entrance ticket is one dinar for adults and 500 fils for students. Proceeds to go to the Young Muslim Women's Association Centre for Special Education. The YMWA Centre for Special Education caters for 175 mentally challenged students. It offers education and training for its students in woodwork, ceramics, weaving, horticulture and window washing. Most students enrolled at the Centre are unable to meet the full cost of their education and student fees alone cover only 10% of the Centre's running cost. The Centre depends heavily on donations from its generous sponsors. The YMWA's fund-raising activities and donations have allowed the Centre to continue to serve the less privileged members of our community.



## India, Australia humiliated in Security Council voting

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — In two major diplomatic setbacks at the United Nations, India and Australia Monday suffered humiliating defeats in voting for separate rotating Security Council posts.

Amid charges of dollar diplomacy levelled against Tokyo, India was trounced in a 142-40 vote by economic giant Japan in the first round of secret balloting by the General Assembly for the annual replacement of five non-permanent Council members.

Australia, which Friday had been confident of a narrow victory, was crushed by Portugal by 124 votes to 57

in a second round.

Diplomats said the result marked a personal defeat for U.N. Ambassador Richard Butler, criticised for his manner by his peers who have nicknamed him "the Pope."

Following Monday's voting, Costa Rica, Kenya, Japan, Portugal and Sweden will become non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council from Jan. 1. All but Portugal were elected in the first round Monday.

Indian Ambassador Prakash Shah expressed surprise and disappointment at the result, noting that even Japanese diplomats had expected the battle of the

Asian rivals to run to two rounds.

Mr. Shah told AFP that he had received encouragement from many states who had apparently switched allegiance at the last minute in the secret ballot.

Japanese representative Nobuyasu Abe meanwhile said there was "no ground" for the suggestion that Tokyo had effectively bought votes at the United Nations.

Mr. Butler, flanked by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser at a news conference, offered no immediate explanation for his own stunning defeat, saying that the "idiosyncratic" result defied all logic. The voting comes one

month after Australia successfully spearheaded the adoption by the General Assembly of a global nuclear test-ban treaty. India attempted to block the treaty's adoption, but Mr. Shah said that this did not appear to be a factor Monday.

Mr. Butler, asked where he would look for an explanation, replied: "You can do that in two ways, you can look into the system of the election, or you can look into yourself. I guess we'll probably do a bit of both."

Mr. Butler criticised the future composition of the Security Council where European Union states would continue to be well-represented following Monday's vote — in addition to permanent members Britain and France, Portugal and Sweden will serve two-year terms as rotating states.

Australia, Portugal and Sweden had been in a three-legged race to represent "Western European and other" states.

The Security Council will have a "real deficit," Mr. Butler said, explaining that "our part of the world is not on the Council where it should have been."

Portuguese Ambassador Pedro Catarino, who according to diplomats staged an intensive and "convivial" campaign, says he wants his country to be "a bridge between north and south."

Mr. Butler pointed to press reports suggesting that his rival had been engaged in "dirty tricks," but said there was "no hard evidence" of vote-buying.

The Security Council has a total 10 rotating and five permanent members. Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States hold veto power in the Council as permanent members.

The outgoing rotating members are Botswana, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia and Italy.



Japanese United Nations Ambassador Hisashi Owada (left) shakes hands with Chile's Ambassador Juan Somavia after Japan was elected by the General Assembly to a two-year term on the Security Council Monday, at U.N. Headquarters in New York (Reuters photo)

## Taiwan vows to intercept any Japanese planes near disputed islands

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan Tuesday vowed to intercept any Japanese planes which fly into its air defence zone near disputed islands in the East China Sea claimed by China, Japan and Taiwan.

"For any unidentified planes intruding into our Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), the armed forces will adopt the set procedures by ... intercepting them to ensure the safety of our airspace," said Fu Hui-Ku, deputy director of the Defence Ministry Combat Department.

The disputed islands, called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese lie in Japan's ADIZ, which is only one degree, or 55 nautical miles, from Taiwan's ADIZ.

Japan has said it will immediately scramble warplanes if Taiwan activists go ahead with a plan to drop Taiwanese flags over the

islands from helicopters Friday, to demonstrate their "rightful claim over the Diaoyus."

The activists, who revealed their intentions Sunday, have said they are willing to risk their lives to complete the "mission," but Taipei has asked them to remain calm, promising that it will not "give up" the islands and negotiate sovereignty with Japan.

Mr. Fu said the military would not send warplanes to escort the activists but added "we will not refuse to rescue them should mishaps occur."

Taiwan's government has said it does not support the helicopter protest, amid worries that it could increase tension in the area and its aviation department has yet to approve the activists' plans.

Japan's claim to the archipelago ignited into scores of

protests in China and Taiwan after a Japanese right-wing group erected a lighthouse on one of the islands in July.

But Tuesday's comment was the first by Taiwanese defence authorities over the disputed archipelago, which is believed to lie over rich gas and oil deposits.

Mr. Fu declined to comment on press reports that Chinese warplanes had surveyed the area around the Diaoyus, illegally entering Taiwan's air information zone.

Taiwan's air information zone covers the islands, but its ADIZ does not. The archipelago falls within Japan's ADIZ, just one degree, or 55 nautical miles, from Taiwan's ADIZ.

Defence officials have said it would be easy for Japanese warplanes to cross over into Taiwan's ADIZ zone by mistake.

## China slams Taiwan for allowing Independence Party

BEIJING (R) — China Tuesday slammed Taiwan for failing to crack down on a new opposition party seeking independence for the island and warned that separatism was "a road to death."

"Not only do the Taiwan authorities fail to ban the formation of the Taiwan Independence Party, but they also tolerate it," a spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office under the state council, or cabinet, said.

"The self-proclaimed anti-independence stand of the Taiwan authorities is a double-faced practice that deceives others as well as themselves," the official People's Daily quoted the spokesman as saying.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a rebel province since Mao Zedong's Red Army defeated and drove Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist troops into exile in Taiwan at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

A group of Taiwanese activists plan to break away from Taiwan's main opposition party and form the Taiwan Independence Party on Dec. 12.

China has threatened to invade if Taiwan

declared independence. China conducted missile tests and war games off Taiwan last March in the run-up to the island's first direct presidential elections to cow Taipei into abandoning any dreams of independence.

"Taiwan independence is a road to death that cannot be walked because it is blocked," the spokesman said.

The spokesman described the party as a "reactionary political organisation" with the explicit purpose of splitting the motherland. "The Taiwan authorities should adopt realistic anti-independence action as soon as possible. Compatriots on the two sides are waiting to see," the spokesman said.

"The Chinese government and the Chinese people will definitely not sit back idly and do nothing about it," the spokesman warned. "Their scheme will never succeed," he said of the new party's drive for independence.

Taiwan says it is committed to reunification, but stresses that this cannot be achieved overnight and says China must democratise.

## Yeltsin to undergo surgery in November

ROME (AFP) — The heart operation on Russian President Boris Yeltsin will go ahead at the end of November, U.S. cardiologist Michael DeBakey said in a newspaper interview Tuesday, ruling out any chance that the surgery might be delayed or cancelled.

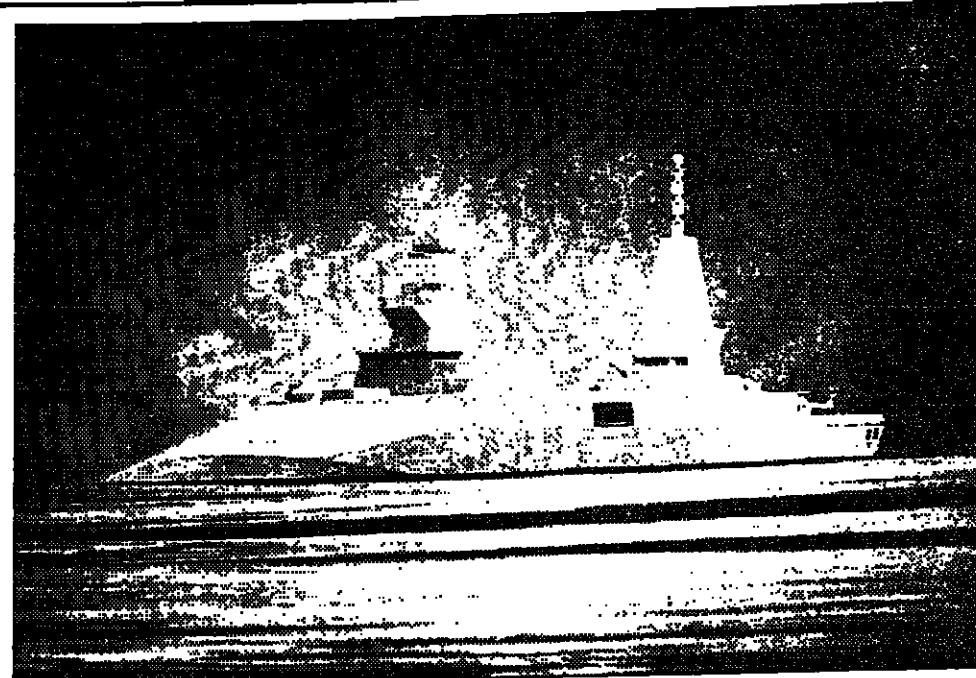
However, asked by the Italian paper Corriere Della Sera what constituted the principle element of risk in the operation, Dr. DeBakey said that the rate of blood flow in Mr. Yeltsin's left ventricle was still not sufficiently high.

Dr. DeBakey is advising the team that will conduct the operation on Mr. Yeltsin and was in the Russian capital last month. The renowned heart surgeon, who is now in Houston, Texas, was interviewed by the paper by telephone from Moscow.

Dr. DeBakey, who told the paper he would return to Moscow for the operation, said all pre-surgical preparations were going along as expected and the "president's health is improving constantly."

The operation on Mr. Yeltsin's heart will take place in "late November," sometime during the last two weeks of the month, he told the paper, adding that the possibility that the operation might be delayed or cancelled was "currently completely ruled out."

Some Russian media have reported that Mr. Yeltsin's heart is in such poor condition that surgery would be not only ineffective but dangerous. Echo Moscow radio reported in mid-October that the president had such a low haemoglobin level that carrying out the operation would be impossible.



United Kingdom shipbuilding group Vosper Thornycroft unveiled its new Sea Wraith Stealth Corvette at the Euronaval exhibition. The Sea Wraith, seen as an artists' conception, contains features which far exceed the Stealth capability that exist in current warships with shaped topsides and composite materials with conducting surfaces (Reuters photo)

## Stealth warships steal limelight at naval show

PARIS (R) — Just as the submarine changed the face of naval warfare in World War II, Europe's shipbuilders are hoping a new breed of "Stealth" warships will do the same in the 21st century.

At a trade fair at the business airport of Le Bourget, north of Paris, three shipbuilders were presenting their own version of combat ships with the ability to hide and deceive the enemy.

Britain's Vosper Thornycroft was due Tuesday to unveil its design for the sea Wraith Corvette at the Euronaval exhibition, which gathers the world's navies.

Baeseima, a joint venture between British Aerospace and France's Sema Group, launched its Cougar Coastal Corvette project Monday.

And French state-owned DCN shipyard presented its La Fayette frigate which it boasted was the first operational warship fully to use stealth features in its design.

Stealth warships use similar principles to the radar-beating technology developed by the U.S. aircraft industry and used in the

1991 Gulf war against Iraq. The diamond-shaped F117 and batwing B2 bombers were designed to absorb or deflect radar.

But traditionalists who admire the sleek greyhound lines of warships would be dismayed to see the flat, angular shapes forced by the stealth technology which makes modern ships mere "platforms" for weapons and detection systems.

The La Fayette uses a slab-sided superstructure and non-metallic composite materials to confuse radar and missiles.

The second of eight La Fayette-class ships ordered by Taiwan entered service last week, while Saudi Arabia has also ordered the French ship.

But the British are in hot pursuit with their own designs for a new generation of stealth vessels, which they say they are ready to build now. They have set their sights firmly on export markets for the first customers.

"We believe this is the warship of the future and all warships will need to use these techniques," Brian

Spilman, Vosper's manager of Future Projects Shipbuilding, told Reuters.

The Sea Wraith design puts the distinctive clutter of mast, radar dishes and aerials inside flat-sided towers and has shaped topsides, rather like diamond facings, to make it hard for radars to lock on. It also uses non-reflective composites.

Sea Wraith can alter its "radar signature" by lowering or raising the mast, making it difficult to recognise the craft.

Two asymmetrically-located masts are meant to confuse radar-guided missiles.

To counter new infra-red, or heat-seeking, missiles, the ship sprays a fine mist of water to conceal itself and its "hot spots" such as the exhaust.

Baeseima is showcasing the Cougar Patrol vessel, which uses low-acoustic waterjet propulsion instead of traditional noisy engines which are easily picked up by sonar.

Its low, angular lines are typical of stealth designs for throwing off radar beams.

## Lithuania's Landsbergis savours comeback

VILNIUS (R) — Vytautas Landsbergis, who spearheaded Lithuania's 1990-91 drive for independence, was headed for coalition talks Tuesday and savouring his comeback against his ex-Communist foes.

Mr. Landsbergis and his Homeland Union Party won the most votes in a first round of parliamentary elections, unseating the former Communists of the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party in a sweet revenge for his defeat at the polls in 1992.

With 1,495 of the 2,037 voting districts counted, the Homeland Union had taken 29 per cent of the first round vote. The former Communists were third, just under 10 per cent.

Mr. Landsbergis named Gediminas Vagnorius as candidate for prime minister, a post he occupied in 1991. They will have to assemble a coalition in the 141-seat parliament to form a government.

"We can say that our party won a victory in the first round and we do not think that after all the votes are counted there will be any significant changes that could affect our leading position," Mr. Landsbergis said.

The short, stocky former music professor was the unlikely leader of the Baltic state's dramatic move to

independence from the former Soviet Union.

He gained admiration for himself and his people by standing up to Moscow, especially after 13 people were killed by Soviet troops on an attack on Vilnius television tower, protected by ordinary people behind makeshift barricades.

But his popularity plummeted when the economy collapsed and the independence movement was riven by faction fighting. A humiliating electoral defeat in 1992 was compounded when ex-Communist Algirdas Brazauskas won the presidency in 1993.

The former Communists conceded defeat Monday and said they were ready to serve in opposition. "The people put more hope in us than we could objectively fulfill," said speaker of parliament Cheslovas Jurshenas.

A turnout of just 55 per cent — compared with 1992's 75 per cent — took some of the shine from Mr. Landsbergis's win.

The Homeland Union is expected to ally itself with the Christian Democrats, second-placed on just over 10 per cent, in a right-wing coalition. It may also invite the Centre Union, fourth at eight per cent.

As Mr. Landsbergis prepared for talks on a coalition, President Brazauskas

appealed for stability.

"Continuity is an imperative and the new government should continue the work of the previous government," Mr. Brazauskas, who is now without party affiliation, said on Lithuanian radio.

The ex-Communists had regained power on promises to ease the pain of reform to a market economy. But instead of fulfilling populist pledges, they followed a path of austerity charted by the international monetary fund. Economic gains resulted but critics complained of corruption and cronyism.

The government was badly hurt in a banking crisis last year when a former prime minister withdrew his personal savings from a bank days before it shut.

"We want to see a Lithuania as different as possible from the Lithuania under Communists," Mr. Landsbergis, told reporters. "The Lithuania under ex-Communists was no different from the Lithuania under Communists."

The first round of the vote decides 70 of the 141 seats in parliament under a proportional representation party list vote.

The remaining 71 seats are decided on a majority vote and a second round run off will be held on Nov. 10.

## Mrs. Clinton disagrees with husband on golf

WASHINGTON (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Monday admitted to having some disagreements with her husband, particularly when it comes to watching movies and sports — and definitely when it comes to playing golf. Asked to describe areas where she and President Bill Clinton disagree, she said that she had tried "to become a golfer" to share the pastime her husband loves, but it was doomed by a disastrous date she had had as a teenager. "I don't like violent movies," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview from Washington with Michael Jackson, a host with Los Angeles radio station KABC. "He finds them relaxing. I think that's kind of a male thing."

## Israel to wing home smuggled African parrots

TEL AVIV (R) — Twenty-five rare parrots smuggled to Israel aboard a ship from West Africa will make their way home to Ghana this week on a British Airways flight, Israeli officials said. The African grey parrots, an endangered species protected by international law, would fetch up to \$1,200 each on the legal market, according to Bill Clark, the Israeli Nature Reserve Authority's delegate to Interpol's subgroup on wildlife crime. The birds were seized several months ago by Israeli authorities at the port of Haifa. Their return was delayed by a quarantine period, and an investigation to determine their origin. No one knows how many are left, as much of their homeland in West Africa is inaccessible. Interpol figures show wildlife crime is second only to drugs in contraband activity and is more lucrative than contraband of electronics.

## Gandhi's letters go on sale in London

LONDON (R) — A collection of writings by Indian nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi, which were stashed in a cupboard in Madras for nearly 50 years, are to be sold in London, auction house Phillips said Monday. Many of the 450 handwritten papers are scrawled on the backs of envelopes or old letters by the environment-conscious leader, who led 350 million Indians in a non-violent campaign against British rule. They include many of the speeches Gandhi made in the six months before he was assassinated in 1948. Gandhi's former secretary, V. Kalyanam, kept the writings in his home and is now selling them to raise money for a Hindu charity, which wants to build a new temple. They are expected to raise up to £1 million pounds (\$1.60 million).

## Polish explorer sets out to cross Antarctica

WARSAW (R) — Polish polar explorer Marek Kaminski flew to Chile Monday where he will set out on a gruelling solitary trek across Antarctica, public television said. He said he planned to embark on his 3,000-kilometre march from Berkner Island to the Ross Sea in late October or early November. Poland's largest-selling daily Gazeta Wyborcza listed four other trekkers, who plan to set out at the same time, as Norwegian explorer Bourge Ousland, Briton Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham Fiennes, Korean Cho Ouyou and an unnamed Frenchwoman. "There is no rivalry involved, the Antarctic is no race course," Mr. Kaminski said. "Everyone is going because they love it very much and that's all there is to it."

## South African general will seek pardon after admitting abuses

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A former South African police chief said Tuesday that he planned to apply for amnesty after admitting involvement — and implicating former President Pieter Botha — in a 1988 bombing and the killings of anti-apartheid activists.

General Johan Van Der Merwe told the truth and reconciliation commission Monday that Mr. Botha had ordered the 1988 bombing that injured 23 people of Khotso House, the Johannesburg headquarters of the anti-apartheid South African Council of Churches.

Gen. Van Der Merwe testified that Mr. Botha may also have been involved in an operation under which booby-trapped hand grenades made their way into the hands of anti-apartheid activists.

The general, who stepped down as head of the South African police shortly after the country's historic 1994 elections ending white minority rule, told the SAPA news agency that he planned to apply to the truth commission for a legal pardon, but would wait first to see if he was accused of more crimes.







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## Chirac among friends

PRESIDENT JACQUES Chirac arrives here today after concluding his visits to Syria, Israel and the Palestinian self-governing areas on a mission aimed at raising France's and Europe's profile in the Middle East peace process and cementing bilateral ties with countries of the region. But unlike in Israel, where he received a lukewarm reception by the Israeli government, the French president will find in Jordan a warm welcome on both the official and popular levels. The historic and traditionally strong bonds that tie France to Jordan as well as the warm personal relations that exist between His Majesty King Hussein and President Chirac have not developed in a vacuum; they stem from years of friendship, cooperation and understanding between the two countries. As a Gaullist, the president has inherited a legacy which is respected and cherished not just by Jordanians but also by the vast majority of people in the Arab World. Charles de Gaulle took several bold and sound decisions that the Arabs will always remember him for, starting with heeding Algerians' demands for independence to slamming an arms embargo against Israel for waging a war of aggression against Arab states in 1967.

It is noteworthy that President Chirac visited with the Syrians, Israelis and Palestinians armed with a set of cardinal principles to guide the shaky peace process. Those ranged from a call for the faithful application of the land-for-peace formula to the need to recognise the Palestinians' right to self-determination, including the establishment of their own independent state. While it is true that the French president left Israel without succeeding in nudging its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, any closer to the universally accepted terms of reference for regional peace, he comes here with the advantage and the credit that he rightly deserves for at least having tried and for pledging that France and Europe will continue to do everything in their power to improve the chances of achieving an equitable and just settlement to the Palestinian problem.

President Chirac will find in Jordan a climate of full recognition and appreciation for these and the other efforts that his country is expending to reduce international tensions and oil the wheels of development, progress and democracy here and in various parts of the world. Nobody can fault France for trying to ensure its own best interests in dealing with countries of the Arab World, for there are indeed mutual concerns to be addressed jointly and for the mutual benefit of all sides. At the same time, though, Paris can be instrumental in bridging the gap in the balance of trade between Jordan and France, to mention just one area where cooperation can be enhanced. Europe offers a unique market that has yet to be fully tapped, and we look to France to explore every avenue to make the Euro-Arab partnership an equal and productive one.

What remains to be done on the peace front is how to translate the French proposals to advance negotiations into positive actions against the backdrop of Israeli defiance. At a time when even Washington is unable to make Israel move forward on the limited issue of redeployment in Hebron in spite of its confirmed clout with the Jewish state, one wonders what Paris can do in order to succeed where Washington has so far failed.

The Europeans, who enjoy a considerable economic leverage with Israel (more than 60 per cent of Israeli exports go to Europe), can still use their heavy weight to remind Israel of its own vital concerns in heeding their advice, and by no less than international legitimacy and laws. The Israelis, on the other hand, may want to recall how hard it was for them to grapple with European economic pressures and to be boycotted and sidelined by other countries of the world during the Shamir government days.

President Chirac, a major European leader and political player on the international stage, knows the equation that governs politics in the Middle East and the Mediterranean region as a whole. We trust he will not spare any effort in helping the Netanyahu government get it right.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY daily Tuesday commented on the withdrawal of the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross from the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations, saying that Israel is to blame for the failure of the negotiators to reach a positive conclusion. By continuously procrastinating and delaying the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, especially on the redeployment of Israeli forces in the Hebron area, and by disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in their homeland, Mr. Netanyahu has provided the necessary instruments for the failure of the talks which have been going on for the past two weeks, said the daily. Mr. Ross's withdrawal from the meetings on Monday came as a natural result of the Israeli adamant stands and Mr. Netanyahu's obstinacy and his drive to wreck the peace process, it added. The Arab people in Jordan and Palestine have been hoping that the Americans would exercise pressure on Israel to comply with the requirements of peace and respect the agreements with the Palestinians, said the daily who cited King Hussein's meeting Monday with the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which serves as a Jewish lobby in the U.S., as part of the Kingdom's ongoing efforts to ensure the success of the peace process.

## The Washington Watch

# Democrats 'appear heading for victory, restoration of former strength'

WITH ONLY two weeks remaining until the Nov. 5 presidential elections, U.S. President Bill Clinton retains a substantial 10 point lead over Republican challenger Bob Dole.

Gloom has once again descended on the Republican Party and the Dole campaign has begun to act out in desperation. After two weeks of press leaks suggesting that Dole had decided to raise the issue of Clinton's character, Dole unloaded a bitter attack on the Clinton White House. In a series of speeches Dole, his vice-presidential running mate Jack Kemp and other campaign supporters pointed to mistakes and scandals that have plagued the president and members of his administration for the past four years.

While these attacks are music to the ears of the Republican faithful, they have not as yet borne fruit for the Dole campaign for four principal reasons:

First, none of the scandals directly involve the president in any wrongdoing. Second, most of these matters have been the subject of years of investigation and long, drawn-out Senate and congressional hearings. In most cases, the public has decided that by raising them again, the Republicans are just "playing politics."

Third, by going on the attack, Senator Dole risks losing as much as he might gain. Voters already feel that Dole is too mean and too negative. By directly and repeatedly going after the president, Senator Dole is in danger of reinforcing this negative image of his campaign.

And finally, most voters have already decided how they will vote and seem to be basing their vote on specific issues and their concerns about the direction of the country. In this regard, it is interesting to note that while voters give Dole a higher rating for integrity and character than President Clinton, they give the president higher points for leadership on the issues that mean the most to them — education, the economy, health care, environmental concerns and fighting crime.

As a result, the president has maintained a greater than 10 per cent lead for weeks now and that level has at times increased to over 15 per cent.

What is most troubling to the Dole camp is that the president is not only leading Dole in national polls, but in important states where Republicans have traditionally been victorious. And it is these state-by-state counts that will ultimately be decisive in determining the outcome of the election.

To understand U.S. presidential politics, it is necessary to understand the inner workings of what is called the "electoral system."

According to the U.S. constitution the presidential election will not ultimately be decided by the national popular vote — but by what is called the electoral vote.

Here is the way the system works:

Each of the 50 states is assigned a specific number of electoral votes, or electors. States are given as many electors as their combined number of congressmen and senators. Every state has 2 senators, but the number of congressmen is determined by each state's population.

Thus, the most populous state, California, which has 52 congressmen and 2 senators is assigned a total of 54 electoral votes. A less populous state, such as Vermont, has only one congressman and two senators; therefore

Vermont has 3 electoral votes.

The popular vote is not counted on the national level. Rather, it is counted on a state-by-state basis. The winner of each state receives all that state's electoral votes.

There are a total of 538 electoral votes (435 congressmen, 100 senators plus three electoral votes for the only non-state, the nation's capital, Washington, DC). In order to win the election, a presidential candidate must win enough states to win at least 270 electoral votes, or one half of the total plus one.

This complex system has produced presidential campaigns which are run not as national efforts, but as individual state campaigns.

The themes and programmes put forward by the candidate are national in scope, but the tactics of each campaign are focused on a local state-by-state basis. Different approaches are needed to win votes in each state and region of the country.

From 1968 to 1988, the Republicans had what was considered a "lock" on the electoral vote. Because their message and programmes appealed to so many diverse constituencies and regions of the country, Republicans were virtually guaranteed victory in 21 states with a total of 191 electoral votes. They won these states all six times between 1968 and 1988. In five of those six elections, they also won other twelve states, with a combined total of 138 electoral votes. Together, these 33 states gave the Republicans an almost certain 329 votes — hence the phrase that the Republicans had a "lock on the White House."

Democrats, on the other hand, only won Washington, DC all six times.

As a result of their regularly winning these states, even if only by a small margin, Republicans were virtually guaranteed victories by what appear to be large margins in the electoral vote, but not in the popular vote.

In 1968, for example, Richard Nixon, the Republican, beat Democrat Hubert Humphrey by a mere one per cent of the popular vote (only 500,000 votes nationally). Nixon's real victory came in the electoral vote where he won enough states to win by a margin of 301-191. (That year, a southern governor named George Wallace ran as an independent and won 46 electoral votes by winning a number of southern states).

And while Ronald Reagan is remembered for his landslide victory over Jimmy Carter in 1980, in fact he won by only 9 per cent of the popular vote. The landslide came in the electoral vote count, which Reagan won 489 to 49).

Even George Bush's 1988 victory over Michael Dukakis was less than 8 per cent nationally, but he won enough states to give him a 426 to 111 margin in electoral votes.

As a result of this Republican "lock" on almost all of the Western states (including California), the industrial mid-Western states (especially Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio), and most of the southern states (when a southerner like Carter or Wallace is not in the race), Democrats were at a real disadvantage when running national campaigns.

With Republicans all but guaranteed victory in so many states, Democrats had to win all the rest and then win a few of the so-called "Republican states" just to be competitive.

In 1992 Democrats, led by Bill Clinton, broke that electoral lock. By developing a centrist message that focused

on economic issues, Mr. Clinton was able to assemble a coalition that won the support of young voters and middle class voters including those who live in states that Republicans had previously claimed as their own. Mr. Clinton, for example, won California with 54 electoral votes and Illinois with 22 electoral votes — states which Republicans had won in the past six elections.

In 1996, Clinton promises to surpass his 1992 victory. Not only is he leading handily in California and Illinois, he is also leading Dole in such Republican strongholds as Arizona (8 electoral votes) and Florida (25 electoral votes).

The latest state polls show Clinton with a commanding lead in twenty five states with 307 electoral votes. Dole, on the hand, has a substantial lead in only nine states with only forty four electoral votes. Overall, Clinton leads in thirty five states with 412 electoral votes, with Dole leading in fourteen states with 110 votes.

As a result of this bleak electoral picture, as Dole's campaign strategists attempt to plan their last few weeks of campaigning, they are increasingly hard pressed to decide in which states they should campaign to win the necessary 270 electoral votes.

One major U.S. newspaper described the Dole strategy as "threading the needle." With only two weeks to go and limited campaign funds left, Dole has had to decide to put all of his resources in about a dozen states and to ignore the rest of the country. He cannot afford to lose any of those dozen states, including California (where he currently is trailing Clinton by 15 per cent), Florida (where his is behind by 5 per cent), Virginia and Texas where he is tied with the president.

Meanwhile, this has freed the Clinton campaign enabling them to shift gears in the last few weeks of the election. Since the Dole campaign will not actually compete in several states, the Clinton campaign can turn their attention to a few key states of their own and to helping Democratic senate and congressional candidates in their elections.

The president wants not only to win in November, but to see his Democratic Party return to control in the Senate and Congress. Winning back control of the senate may be difficult, but winning back the House of Representatives appears to be within the realm of possibility.

This has been a dramatic turn of events for Democrats. In 1994, when the Republicans shocked the nation and seized control of Congress, most analysts gave Clinton up for dead. With his polling figures at an all time low and with an aggressive new Republican leadership in charge in Washington, it was assumed that Clinton would lose in 1996 and Republicans would control all branches of government.

A combination of Republican mistakes and an effective White House political campaign have proven that prediction quite wrong.

Republicans will continue to aggressively campaign and hope that their attack tactics and their "eye of the needle" electoral strategy works — but, barring a miracle, President Clinton appears to be heading for victory with popularity enough to help his party regain at least some of its former strength.

## 'When democracy comes to Indonesia, East Timor will be ready'

By Gwynne Dyer

*"There is always fear. We lack the freedom to speak, to walk where we want, to have different opinions. If people talk, they know they will be interrogated. They know they will be tortured."*

— Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of East Timor

You cannot help suspecting that the committee that gave this year's Nobel Peace Prize to East Timor's Bishop Belo knew that he was soon going to meet his people's chief oppressor, Indonesia's President Suharto. Even in the aftermath of genocide, the ironies were too delicious to miss.

It was Suharto who ordered the invasion of East Timor in December, 1975, only six days after it got its independence from Portugal. It was Suharto's troops who slaughtered or starved an estimated 200,000 East Timorese in the following six years to crush the resistance to Indonesian rule. (The territory's total population today is only 750,000).

And now here was Suharto, scheduled to visit East Timor only four days after the announcement of Belo's Nobel Prize. Moreover, he was coming to inaugurate a 26-metre bronze statue of Jesus Christ on a hill overlooking Dili, East Timor's capital.

Suharto, leader of the world's largest Muslim country, should have appreciated that irony, for he is personally responsible for the fact that East Timor is now overwhelmingly Christian. When Indonesia invaded 21 years ago, only about one-third of the people were Catholics. Now

over 90 per cent are, because it is the only safe way to go on 'opposing Indonesian rule.'

The statue itself is just a propaganda exercise intended to show that Indonesia respects East Timor's Christian traditions. But it did mean that Suharto had to share a helicopter ride to the statue with Bishop Belo, who then stood silently while Suharto made a speech about how "the erection of this statue... shows that since East Timor became part of Indonesia, sacred and religious values are continuously growing and developing."

But Suharto did not congratulate the bishop on his Nobel Prize, or even mention it. He could not, since it implicitly condemns everything he has done to East Timor since 1975. Bishop Belo then composed Suharto's embarrassment by stating that "the statue may have been inaugurated but it has not been blessed. For Roman Catholics it is the blessing that counts. The statue is still a subject of controversy for us."

The bishop even spoke openly about the fact that "there is still oppression, with soldiers everywhere, watching you, hearing what you're talking about." A small victory in a long tragedy. But East Timor is no closer to freedom today than yesterday.

"This was about to become a forgotten conflict," said Francis Sejersted, chairman of the Nobel Committee, "and we wanted to contribute to maintaining momentum." A worthy goal, but one has to ask: What momentum? There are only a few hundred guerrillas still active in

the mountains of East Timor. The last major public protest against Indonesian rule, at Santa Cruz cemetery outside Dili in 1991, was crushed with the slaughter of some 200 students.

Other countries are eager to invest in Indonesia's booming economy, to sell its government arms, to share in the development of the undersea oil and gas reserves off Timor. "The world is a pretty unfair place, littered with examples of acquisition by force," rationalised Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Williams in 1990. "There is no binding legal obligation not to recognise the acquisition of territory that was acquired by force."

So why go on? What hope is there that three-quarters of a million people, most of them poor peasants, could ever win back control over their own destiny from Indonesia, which has 200 million people and powerful friends everywhere?

Just this: over two decades after Indonesia made East Timor its 27th province, the United Nations still does not recognise the annexation. As far as the U.N. is concerned, East Timor is still a Portuguese colony awaiting a valid act of self-determination. Every year the Indonesians and their friends try to get this U.N. position changed — and it never is.

Borders may seem a slightly old-fashioned notion in the age of the global market and the Internet, but for the weaker and more vulnerable countries in the world — which is the great majority of them — borders are vital. If borders

can be changed by force, then none of them is safe. So the United Nations never recognises border changes that are accomplished by force: Not East Timor, not the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem, not the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait.

Of course, small countries cannot always expect the world to come to their aid if they are attacked. Kuwait had oil, so it got help when Iraq invaded it in 1990. East Timor had no oil, so it got no help. But you can at least insist that the international community does not ratify the results of aggression, so that a door remains open to right the wrong in the future if circumstances change.

But how could the door ever open for East Timor? The answer is that they are waiting for 1989 to reach Indonesia.

In 1989, as the Soviet Union began to democratise, the impossible suddenly became feasible. A window of opportunity opened, and countries that had been under the Russian yoke for decades or even centuries, from the Baltic states to the Caucasus to Central Asia, seized the opportunity and took back their independence without major Russian objections.

The window does not stay open for long (as the Chechens have discovered in their dealings with Russia), but in the first flush of democratisation the impossible briefly becomes feasible. When democracy comes to China, a moment of opportunity may open for Tibet. Democracy will come to Indonesia too, one of these days — and when it does, East Timor will be ready.

## LETTERS

### Prosperity helps peace

To the Editor:

**BARRIERS BETWEEN** peoples, built by ages of hostilities and images mostly created by the media and religion, cannot be bridged by the signing peace accords or treaties.

When the Israelis come to Jordan, as well-protected foreign tourists, it is difficult to imagine we are neighbours. Standards of living are so different and whereas they can come visit our country, or any other they wish, some of us here cannot even see their own capital or get beyond the borders.

Most of us are not familiar with the neighbours' way of living. And there is no way we can find out. Incidentally, did any Israeli visit a poor Jordanian family carrying one simple present or one meal in Ramadan and was rejected? Did any of the Israelis try to contact any Jordanian without the clear protection of security members or officials?

So, when normalisation becomes restricted just to governments, people on either side cannot separate between those who are the cause of their sufferings and those who are sympathetic to them.

Changing images needs time. But to remove the image inherited by each side needs time and actions on the ground.

In other words, it needs people who show goodwill before thinking of the so-called "profits" of peace. Each side should show genuine human feelings, not make the other subject of investment.

Nowadays, and for political reasons only, the number of people who believe that peace cannot relieve sufferings is increasing. Rejectionists do think that "peace" is the cause of suffering and hardships. They say peace has and will have disastrous results.

The great majority of people have not yet seen peace on the ground. They saw only what the photos on television and in papers have been showing them: leaders shaking hands and smiling in this or that capital.

The Israelis cannot imagine what is going on in the minds of deprived people who cannot afford being tourists once in their lifetime, even to Aqaba or Amman. Such people, who cannot afford a picnic to the Dead Sea, are not hostile to the Israelis for being Israelis or Jews. They are, actually, hostile to their own governments.

Many unemployed young men queued in front of the Forte Grand Hotel to get visas to Israel. Did any of them, (who got the visas) practise any kind of terrorism inside Israel? They worked inside Israel just to bring their families in Jordan some money to improve their standard of living.

The great gap between the standards of living in Israel and in Jordan needs to be bridged. Both governments are trying to help each other in a sincere understanding of the need to stem the roots of hostility and suffering.

Tayseer Nazmi,  
Amman.



# Features

## Just peace only on basis of 242 and 338

(Continued from page 1)

the dialogue sponsored by Jordan for many years. "Instead of subsidiarity, a credible regional discourse would build consensus," he said, adding that "it would seek to improve living conditions for all across the region without discrimination or exclusion, on the basis of a genuine understanding of our interdependence on a range of interconnected issues."

The Crown Prince pointed out that clusters of issues such as "water, energy, and the environment; health, education, and civil society; the spectrum of human rights must all be addressed

comprehensively."

He said that all such issues would reflect on "the living conditions and human dignity of individuals," adding that our interest should be "in anthropology, the politics where people matter, rather than the politics of materialism and expediency."

The Crown Prince's address was followed by a question and answer session, in which the Crown Prince responded to the various questions related to the recent developments in the peace process.

The Crown Prince expressed surprise at the disparity between the European political idiom, of

promoting democracy in the Middle East, and the preference of dealing at the same time with totalitarian regimes.

Also, responding to one of the questions regarding the status of Jerusalem, the Crown Prince reiterated His Majesty King Hussein's support for the Palestine National Authority (PNA), and called for the resurrection of the consciousness of Jerusalem with a serious academic and spiritual evaluation of the city's importance to the three great monotheistic faiths, in a separate manner to the political and municipal sovereignty over the city comprehensively.

## Chirac arrives today in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

outlook" towards Islam and Muslims. Taking Jordan as an example, Mr. Chirac will tackle the democratic experiment in the Kingdom, its evolution and its success.

Lower House deputies, political parties, business associations, and Islamic organisations on Tuesday welcomed the French president and hailed France's "new Arab policy and unbiased positions."

"France has firmly stood up to Israeli arrogance saying frankly that peace could not be achieved if Israel was not committed to implementing the treaties it signed," said a statement issued by the Progress and Justice Party.

The Communist Party hailed Mr. Chirac's state-

ments in Israel about the need for the establishment of a Palestinian state and pointed also to Italy's position in that regard.

"These declarations reflect a harmony in European countries' positions towards the Arab countries. A stand that will have a positive influence on the peace process," the party said.

The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) expressed delight at the French position "that is supportive of Arab rights."

The French "call for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and for the establishment of a Palestinian state is highly appreciated by the Jordanian business community, which hopes for prosperity in a region that suffered from years of deprivation, struggle and

conflicts," the JBA said. JBA President Hamdi Tabaa said strong relations characterise the association and the French National Employers Council, which represents one and a half million companies.

Several visits have been exchanged between the two councils since 1994.

During the French president's visit, an 80 million French francs (\$16 million) financial protocol will be signed between France and Jordan. Total French assistance this year is estimated at 400 million francs in addition to the French aid through the European Union that is estimated at 130 million francs.

Mr. Chirac will leave Amman for Lebanon on Thursday after holding a press conference at the Royal Palace. He will also visit Egypt.

## Israeli ambassador sees Hebron deal

(Continued from page 1)

attempts to impose its sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem."

The protest followed Israel's opening of a new entrance to a tunnel running along the compound walls of the Al Aqsa Mosque on Sept. 23.

Mr. Kabariti told the ambassador during the late September meeting that given that Israel recognised Jordan's special role vis-à-vis Islamic holy places in Arab Jerusalem under the

two countries' peace treaty of October 1994, the Jewish state should have informed Amman of the move to open the new entrance to the tunnel.

King Hussein severely criticised the Israeli move at the Washington summit, prompting Mr. Netanyahu to comment later that he had not expected such strong Jordanian reaction to the opening of the tunnel entrance.

Mr. Netanyahu also said that he was committed to building strong relations

with Jordan despite the crisis in ties.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman was supposed to have paid a visit to Jordan this week, but his office said late last week that the visit was postponed under mutual agreement.

"There was no political consideration involved in the decision to defer the visit," said a Jordanian official. "Mr. Weizman has a standing invitation to visit Jordan."

## France is more than a close friend to Jordan — envoy

(Continued from page 1)

deprive Europe from having a role," the ambassador said. "The French policies towards the Arabs are very positive and friendly. France has great respect for Arab and Muslim culture."

Ambassador Sharaf, former ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, and to Germany, underlined the increasing importance of a French role in the

Middle East. He said, France, as a member of the United Nations Security Council, played a role in taking decisions on all important international issues since 1946.

"Europe is playing a very important role, with its support and assistance, in the stability of East Europe," Ambassador Sharaf stressed. "This interrelationship between Western and Eastern Europe

does not come into the news, unfortunately."

In the final analysis, Europe and France are on the right track, and their endeavours to maintain a balance in international politics "is definitely going to work," the ambassador said. In fact, "this is how international diplomacy evolves. We cannot have a unitary policy in a five billion world," the ambassador said.

## Talabani wants immediate truce

(Continued from page 1)

The West encouraged Kurds to break from Baghdad in 1991 but has been powerless to resolve a Kurdish power struggle that has since split the mountainous region between the two warring lords.

Mr. Pelletreau said he and Mr. Talabani "discussed the urgent need for a ceasefire" between the warring Kurdish factions.

The United States would be ready to sponsor reconciliation talks between the Kurdish groups once a truce is reached, Mr. Pelletreau said. He said that following a ceasefire, the infrastructure damaged by the fighting should be rebuilt for civilians before the harsh winter conditions set in.

"We also agreed that the intervention by Tehran and Baghdad was a negative factor and should cease," he added.

Mr. Talabani, on his first visit here in three years, met separately on Tuesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, who told reporters that Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani "both have positive positions regarding a ceasefire."

Mr. Ciller and Mr. Talabani played down their differences over alleged PUK

support for Turkish Kurd separatists of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK). "Turkey has the right to provide its security," the PUK leader said.

Mr. Talabani, who flew in to Ankara from Tehran, was expected to leave for northern Iraq on Wednesday.

The Iraqi government said, meanwhile, it was trying to end the inter Kurdish fighting and condemned the U.S. effort for a ceasefire.

Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz repeated his government's call for both Kurdish parties to put aside their differences and talk with Baghdad for a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish issue. "The most important thing at this time is to end fighting and prevent foreign intervention whether from the Iranian side or American and then proceed towards dialogue in Baghdad between the two (Kurdish) sides," said Mr. Aziz, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"The Iraqi leadership is exerting utmost efforts on this direction during the last few days," he said.

Mr. Aziz criticised Mr. Pelletreau's visit to Turkey to meet Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani.

"America is fully responsible

for the destruction and explosions in the Kurdish autonomous region (Kurdish areas) because it (U.S.) is only serving its own interests," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz urged the two factions "to respond positively to Baghdad's appeal by ending fighting and restoring to dialogue in Baghdad."

Meanwhile, the PUK said that in a four-pronged attack against KDP fighters on Monday, it had "liberated" a number of strategic towns and villages to the west and north of its stronghold of Sulaimaniyah.

KDP fighters said they were reinforcing defensive positions south of Koi Sanjaq. Mr. Talabani's hometown, after making a "tactical retreat" there in the face of a PUK advance which they charged was backed by Iranian artillery fire.

"Because of Iranian fire, we were forced to fall back to our current positions," Mamand Selim Ahmad, a commander of a KDP unit, told AFP.

The PUK said in a statement on Monday's fighting that the "KDP and Iraqi auxiliary forces are fleeing in disarray, leaving behind their hardware and their dead and wounded."

## World Bank to lend Jordan \$120 million

(Continued from page 1)

as stipulated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Sud told reporters that a request for the \$120 million loan had been sent to the World Bank board of governors and was expected to be approved before the end of the year or early next year.

But he indicated that he did not expect any hurdle in securing approval for the loan, given Jordan's record in implementing economic reform.

The World Bank has so far lent about \$1.4 billion to Jordan since the early 60s, he noted. "All but \$250 million of this amount have been disbursed" and detailed discussions are under way on precise allocations of the rest (see details on page 8).

Jordan, which is imple-

menting an economic reform programme under the supervision of the IMF, expects to achieve almost-zero budget deficit and maintain an average annual growth rate of six to seven per cent by the year 1998. Inflation is expected to be maintained under six per cent.

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said in September that Jordan expects to receive up to \$600 million in direct and indirect loans and assistance from the donor community before the end of the year, including already signed aid of \$125 million from the European Union and \$200 million in export financing from the U.S. Exim Bank. Other donors include several European countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy as well as Japan.

## Ross reports 'most promising' talks

(Continued from page 1)

any change to the Oslo agreement, but have offered to strengthen security measures already in the accords.

Officials from both sides said agreement was near on the civilian aspects of the Hebron withdrawal, but that parallel talks on security issues still faced serious difficulties.

The Palestinian head negotiator on security issues, Abdul Razaq Yehia, said the two sides were "very close to understandings on some points."

"But there remain some basic differences in several important and sensitive subjects, for example the issue of hot pursuit," he said. Referring to Israeli demands that its soldiers have the right to enter the Palestinian zone in Hebron to ward off and investigate anti-Jewish attacks.

Tuesday night's talks were to focus on "merging" position papers

offered by both sides, he added.

Israel Radio reported that the two sides had drawn up a draft agreement on these civilian issues to be submitted for approval to Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat.

Egypt urged Israel to implement its Middle East peace process commitments and warned that the world will not let it toy with peace.

"Israel must implement the agreements that have been concluded," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters following a meeting between his French counterpart Hervé de Charette and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Either they will do so or the Middle East will enter into a very serious phase, and it is a serious responsibility," he said. "We are not playing games with peace. The world will not permit that, and we shall not accept that."

## Israelis irk French president

(Continued from page 1)

told reporters: "I want first of all to apologise for what happened this morning. President Chirac told me what happened. We did that for a good cause, to protect a friend."

"What we did in the Old City, I have to tell you, the security people do to me. They keep me as a very tight prisoner," Mr. Netanyahu said. "I explained that since the Rabin murder, our security officials are extremely strict about protecting public figures."

During the walking tour of the walled Old City, security men wrestled journalists away from Mr. Chirac's party and armed border guards stood poised outside each Palestinian shop as he blew kisses to on-lookers and eventually blew a fuse.

Reaching the entrance to Haram Al Sharif, the site of Islam's third holiest shrine, Mr. Chirac had enough.

"No security now. I don't want you. Go away. You have no business here," he told stern-faced Israeli guards.

The French leader tried to push them away from the gate to the compound but the security men would not be moved and accompanied him on to the site.

Earlier, dozens of Israeli guards surrounded Mr. Chirac as he entered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional burial place of Jesus.

At St. Anne's Church, granted to Napoleon III in 1856 by the Ottoman empire, Mr. Chirac referred to the security burden he had to bear on the Via Dolorosa — the route tradition says Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion.

Mr. Chirac stood outside St. Anne's, officially French territory, for 10 minutes while his aides negotiated the departure from the church of Israeli police. Eventually a side door opened, the police left and Mr. Chirac agreed to go inside.

Addressing the issue of Jerusalem, he said: "This city must remain open — open to the Christians of Palestine and to the Christians of the world. Open to all religions."

He also visited the Wailing Wall, along with French Jewish leaders.

Mr. Chirac had turned down an Old City tour with the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, asserting France's view that the international community does not recognise Israeli sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem, including the Old City.

On the Middle East peace process, Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Chirac had delivered a positive report from Syria and he hoped to revive peace talks with Damascus.

"The message was a positive message but it seems to me that on these things it's better to say little," Mr. Netanyahu said. Mr. Chirac met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for 14 hours before arriving in Israel, he said.

"Obviously we very much value the readiness of France to try to help us in the effort we are making in order to reach a discussion obviously — obviously in the end to renew the bilateral negotiations between U.S. and Syria," Mr. Netanyahu said.

A senior Syrian official has warned that his country is ready for war with Israel if Mr. Netanyahu maintains his hard-line stance on Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, Israeli press reports said.

Eldad Beck, an Israeli journalist who interviewed the unnamed Syrian official in Damascus, quoted him as saying "Syria is ready for war if the process towards a political solution (with Israel) remains deadlocked after the U.S. elections" next month.

"Syria's troops have already carried out a defensive redeployment" in preparation for a possible conflict, the official was quoted as saying.

"They know the price of war, but also know that Israel would also have to pay a heavy tribute," he said.

However, the official also stressed that Damascus does not want another war with Israel and is genuinely looking for a peace agreement with the Jewish state.

Mr. Beck said he interviewed the senior official during Mr. Chirac's visit last weekend to Damascus.

Mr. Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the report.

## IAF uncharacteristically enthusiastic

(Continued from page 1)

as part of a tour in the region that start in Syria on Saturday, insisted that his minister of health pay an official visit to the Orient House while he visited Israel. During the visit, the French president urged the Israelis to respect the Palestinian rights to self-determination and insisted on the need for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"We welcome French intervention" in the peace process, said another IAF Deputy, Bassam Emouh. "The U.S. is not talking about a Palestinian state but France is."

According to Dr. Emouh, it is in the interest of Arab countries to support these fresh political moves by France and the European Union (EU). The U.S. has for long been playing an "isolationist, biased role that is being largely influenced by the Zionist lobby," according to the deputy. France, a country that is geographically and historically closer to the Arab World, can be considered as the best balancing power and partner in world affairs, he said.

"We hope France will lead the European Union to achieve a new balance in the region. Peace cannot be achieved under the American custodianship that is linked to the Zionist lobby," Dr. Emouh insisted.

But Islamists have not forgotten about French policies towards Algeria or its position towards north African residents in France. The French support for the (current) regime in Algeria against the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the expulsion of two girls from their schools because they wore the veil are still remembered, the Islamists say. But these policies were only followed during the rule of the late President Francois Mitterrand, they believe.

"Now, under President Chirac, such policies have changed, totally," said IAF Deputy Mohammad Owaidah. In addition, "political logic dictates the rule of interests. France has an interest in playing a role in the region, and we are interested in that role."

Meanwhile, the Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan, in a statement issued on Tuesday, hailed President Chirac's Arab policies and advised other European countries to follow suit.

The council said that the European countries, France in particular, are more experienced with handling Arab affairs than the U.S., is and "not any Arab coun-

try would like to see that France and Europe being kept out from final resolution to the Palestinian problem and the historical conflict between the Arabs and the Jews."

"But it is clear that European countries have isolated themselves and refrained from using their power and their right to intervene," the council said. "We understand that Great Britain is biased towards the Jews, harbours hatred for the Arabs, and has succumbed to the pressure of American policy. But the other European countries are not moving. Why don't they insist on their right to solve problems in the region in compliance with international resolutions?" the statement said.

The council expressed hope to see that "France, the only country that is keen on playing an independent role on the international arena, without being influenced by the American political line, can, under its strong President Chirac, convince the rest of the European countries to form a strong bloc — one that follows a strong and unbiased foreign policy that is committed to implementing fair policies in compliance with United Nations resolutions."

The debate culminated in a 1993 law that enshrined birth control, lifting subsidised health insurance and food coupons for any child after the third. Abortion remained illegal in all cases except when the mother's life was in danger. But condoms and pills remained free. The state also introduced mandatory pre-natal birth control classes. Before getting a marriage licence couples must submit a stamped form indicating that they attended a segregated, hour-long lecture on birth control methods at their area clinic. One student in the class at Farman-Farman Health Centre in south Tehran was Bijan Javar, a 38-year-old Amtrak worker from Newark, New Jersey, who came home to find a bride.

"She's a good one. I got lucky on that," said Mr. Javar, taking the lecture in stride as his classmates chuckled nervously and occasionally asked non-technical questions like the best way to initiate sex. "This class might seem unusual for someone outside the country, but it is not surprising for Iran."

Indeed, Iranian birth control officials said that even more coercive measures, such as forcing women who have had more than five children to undergo a tubal ligation, are acceptable given the scope of the problem.

"Sometimes we just have to go after people to direct their activities," said Zakhia Rashad a birth control counsellor. The system seems to be working well enough so a recent directive told counsellors to be a little gentler, to talk to people about the different methods rather than just ordering them to follow one. Statistics are something of a lost art in Iran, but experts say the population growth rate has dropped steeply. By some estimates, it has declined from about 4 per cent in the 1980s — one of the highest rates ever seen anywhere — to about 2.5 per cent, though rural families still tend to bear many children.

Some in the health ministry assert that the growth rate is now even lower. In any case, there are certain to be some 100 million Iranians early in the next century.

Today, new parents worry about their children's prospects, not to mention their own ability to pay for them. About 10 to 15 million demand vasectomies every day at the Farman-Farman Centre. It is both the surest method and free. Azim Aslawi, 44, glanced nervously at the men walking stiff-legged from the operating rooms, trying to avoid groin pains. In the doctor's office he asked if Islam really permitted such a change. The doctor tapped the glass.

"Now that I have read the letter I am much more willing to do it," said Mr. Aslawi, father of two. "No one is proud of big families anymore."

Iranian officials cited two examples of the better-known sayings of Mohammad used to oppose birth control until that time. Once Mohammad said he was proud of those who had a large number of children; another time he mentioned that he hoped that the number of Muslims would outnumber all other faiths by Doomsday.

But birth control supporters argued that those were from the early days of the faith when his followers were few, and they found a welter of other sayings by Mohammad and other lesser prophets that small families brought greater ease.

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*'Government is determined to chart a course that combines national prosperity with greater social equity'*

## Senior World Bank official lauds growth in exports, describes education achievements in Jordan as exemplary

This is the first of a four-part article on the economy of Jordan as seen through the eyes of the World Bank which has issued a booklet detailing the relationship between the bank and the Kingdom since 1962.

**Samir Ghawi reports:**

AMMAN — Inder Sud, the director of the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank, Tuesday commended Jordan for achieving higher exports which, he said, were almost equal to Egyptian exports when non-traditional goods and products are excluded.

Mr. Sud also praised the Kingdom's achievements in the educational sector and

described projects implemented in this area as exemplary in the region. The senior World Bank official, speaking during a breakfast gathering which was attended by a group of journalists representing the Arabic and English dailies, gave high marks to the progress of the Kingdom in implementing structural reforms and pursuing privatisation objectives.

The director briefed the journalists on four areas which he saw as being of great potential for Jordan's future development. He specified them as tourism, energy, water and a safety-net to protect the poor and open employment opportunities for them.

The gathering was an opportunity for Mr. Sud and his team to launch a booklet entitled: "Jordan and the World Bank — Working Together for Growth and Prosperity."

The booklet, prepared by the World Bank, was not described as a typical World Bank report but as a non-technical overview of Jordan's past record of success on the economic and social levels.

In an introduction, the World Bank said: "As a small country with limited natural resources, Jordan's future prosperity will depend upon the creation of an investment friendly economy with a strong export base."

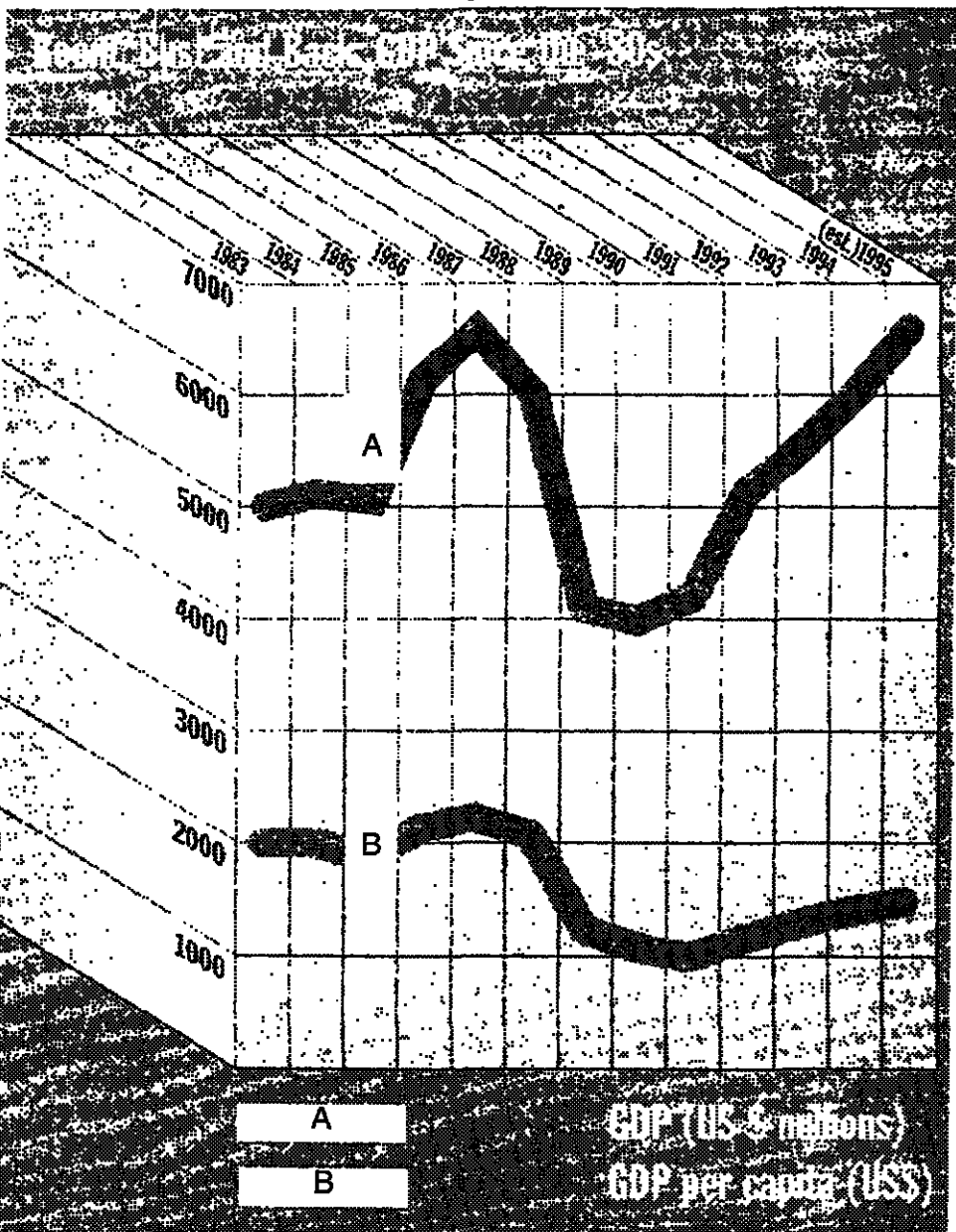
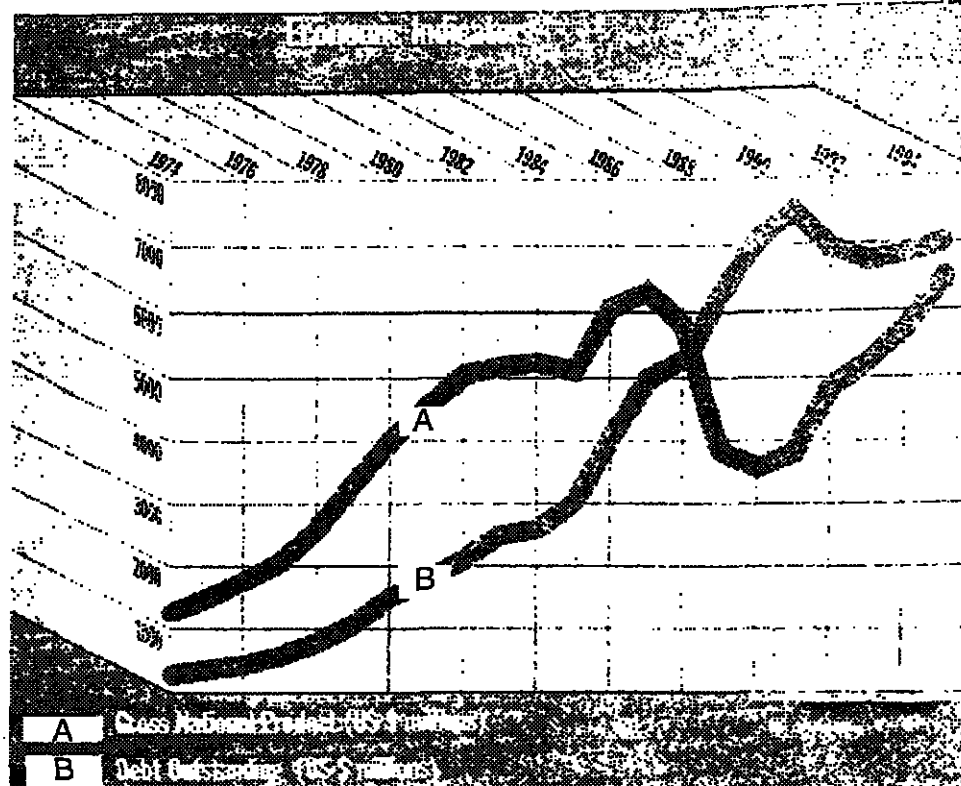
"Fortunately, Jordan's four million people are among the most educated in the region. This talented workforce is Jordan's greatest asset," the introduction of the booklet pointed out. It added: "As the government's economic reforms improve the climate for business activity, the professional and technical skills of the workforce can be applied to increase productive capacity and competitiveness."

"At the same time this combination of business investments and skilled workforce can develop the physical infrastructure necessary to sustain a vibrant private sector-led economy," the World Bank indicated.

Mr. Sud told the gathering that the Jordanian government has not accepted a pattern of growth witnessed in many developing countries where the benefits of increased economic activity is absorbed by the upper strata of society while the poor remain poor. "The government is determined to chart a course that combines national prosperity with greater social equity," the World Bank emphasised in the booklet.

Before examining the present economic situation and future concerns, the booklet reviewed the recent economic history of the Kingdom by stating the following:

Although Jordan is not an oil-exporting country, the oil boom years of 1973-1983 were profitable for Jordan because oil-exporting neighbours were generous in the provision of grants and soft loans and in generating employment for Jordanians. This helped spark a period of unprecedented economic growth. From 1973 to 1983 Jordan's GDP grew in excess of 10 per cent per year, while per capita income approached an all-time high of \$2,250 in '87. The steep decline in prices that hit the region in 1983 caused a



REUTERS

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### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates		Prices as at 22/10/96 19:31	
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.5340	0.8269	1.2840
DE Mark	0.6519	1.0000	0.8241
GB Sterling	1.5952	2.0156	1.0000
CH Franc	0.7911	121.27	0.4954
JP Yen	0.0089	135.88	0.5551
CA Dollar	0.7437	1.1404	0.6559
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0022	0.4094
NL Guilder	0.5810	89.07	0.3639
FR Franc	0.1928	0.2858	0.1208

Energy	
Oil	Price
Brent	25.45
W. Texas	25.60
Bony	25.45
Dubai	21.97
UL Gas	230.00

Mid-East Currencies	
Currency	USD
SA Riyal	0.2666
AE Dirham	0.2724
KW Dinar	3.3356
BH Dinar	0.3770
CY Pound	2.1377

Metal Prices	
Metal	Price
Gold (oz)	383.6
Silver (oz)	4.97
Platinum (oz)	386
AL (3 Months)	1366
CU (3 Months)	1958
Zinc (3 Months)	1025
Lead (3 Months)	729
NI (3 Months)	7150

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)	
Currency	Rate
USD	5.25
GBP	5.87
JPY	0.34
DEM	2.84
FRF	3.32
CHF	1.34
ITL	8.05

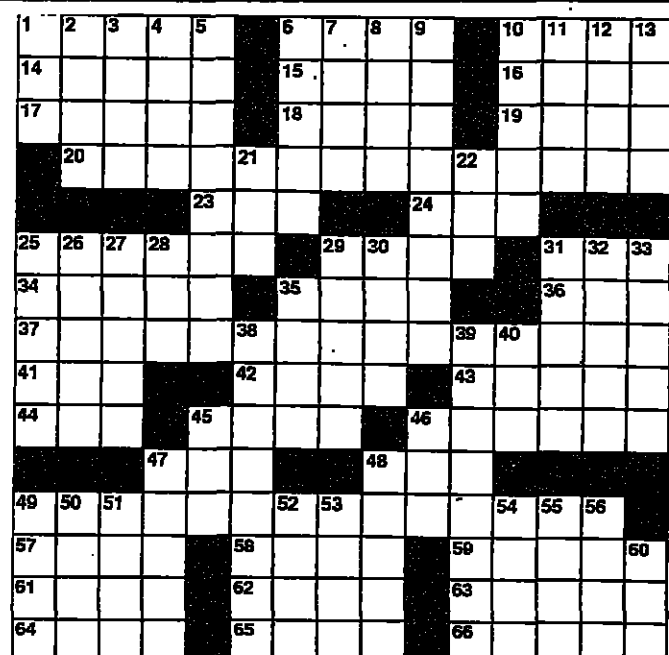
Energy	
Commodity	Price
Coffee (c/ton)	121.08
Cocoa (c/ton)	1460
Sugar (c/ton)	325.5
Wheat (c/ton)	155
Soya (c/ton)	22.57
Tea (kg/kg)	115
Barley (c/ton)	2.48
Rice (c/ton)	465

JOD Cross Rates	
Currency	Rate
US Dollar	0.708
GB Sterling	1.1263
DE Mark	0.4615
CH Franc	0.5604
FR Franc	0.1386
JP Yen	0.6283
NL Guilder	0.4114
IT Lira	0.4622

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

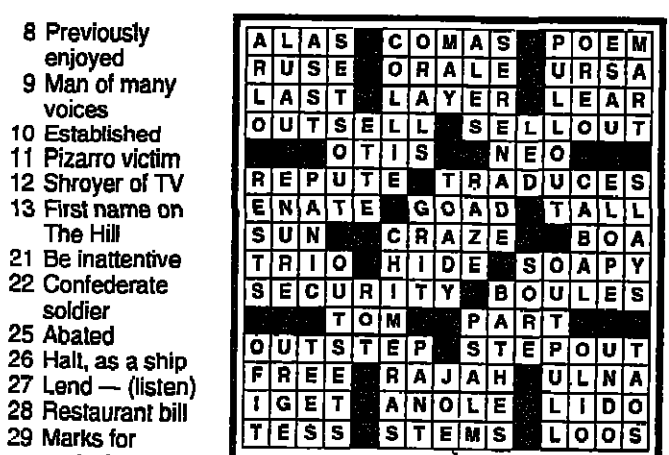
### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS**
- de Leon
  - Urban eyesore
  - Tres
  - Festoon
  - Garden need
  - Last of the Stuarts
  - "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" star
  - First victim
  - Freight boat
  - Sure sign of spring?
  - Korean GI
  - Was up front
  - On cloud nine
  - Lacking pizzazz
  - "a Camera"
  - Lacking freshness
  - Billions of years
  - Card game
  - 1926 hit song
  - Timetable abbr.
  - Shortfall
  - Boiling over
  - "Le Coq"
  - Pangolin food
  - Footless
  - Money player
  - Egyptian cobra
  - Long-legged wader
  - Author Ayn
  - The fat of the —
  - Vertical part of a step
  - Middle East prince: var.
  - Actress McClurg
  - "Frome"
  - Asked
  - Congrats
  - Shakedown artist
  - Earring site



by Gerald R. Ferguson

- DOWN**
- Tablet
  - Osmatic stimulant
  - Forbidden thing
  - Grouch
  - Leaving nothing out
  - Shakedown artist
  - Earring site



- ALAS COMAS POEM**
- 40 Family member: 51 Author Bagnold
- 45 App's field 52 Take on cargo
- 46 Residue 53 Inventory item
- 47 Military chaplain 54 Baptism, e.g.
- 48 Mosquito genus 55 US safety dept.
- 49 Type of bag 56 At hand
- 50 Hindu hero 60 TLC dispensers

(Continued on page 9)

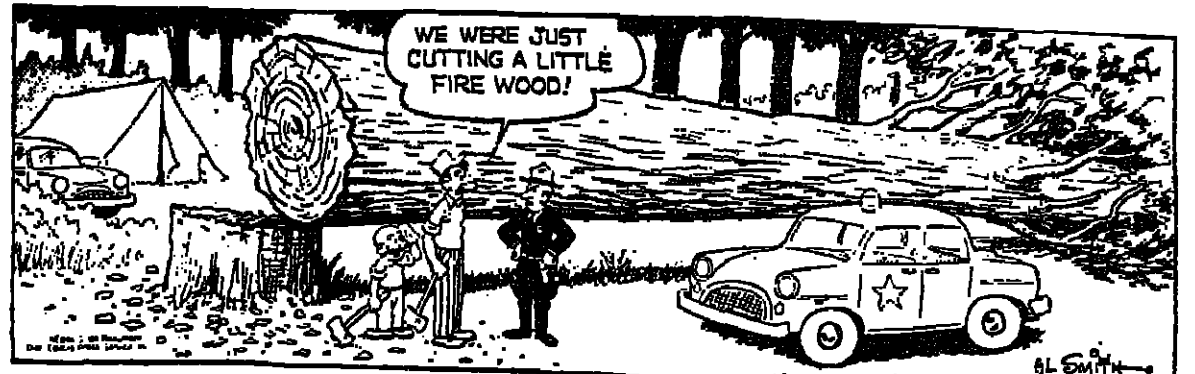
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Rignier Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You want to get into new ventures today, however, be prepared to make changes in your mode of life. Later this evening you can seek out the advice of bigwigs and use those suggestions to make your career activities better.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) You can have greater pleasure in the evening (tonight) with your mate if you show her or she additional affection which will be most appreciated. Listen to some interesting new suggestions from a knowledgeable person.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Some civic needs to be studied well today so that you can make the appropriate decisions concerning your career activities. If a fellow associate changes his or her attitude, don't be surprised by the outcome.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Study brochures and pamphlets today which can help you to handle regular tasks. A fellow associate may seem peculiar at this time, however, you should not be concerned since this may be his or her normal behaviour.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Don't fill up your schedule today with a lot of amusements, since you still have regular duties which must be concluded. Something special later this evening may turn up for the better if are observant.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study whatever ideas or suggestions today which will please and delight your family. Make antagonism a thing of the past so that there won't be any disagreement with your loved ones or close friends.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Some sudden trip or unexpected mission could be in the offing today which just might bring good luck to you and your loved ones. Later tonight you should be observant towards opportunities to become successful.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A financially-minded close friend can give you fine advice today, so be sure to follow it to the letter. Take no risks later this evening while driving on the highway so that you can safely return to your loved ones.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Later in the evening be with person who are a little different than you, since they can give good ideas to you which can be beneficial. Today you can proceed on a new project if you consult with bigwigs and use their suggestions.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Take time today to think and tap your subconscious for good ideas and hunches which will be beneficial for your career activities. Your mate can give beneficial ideas this evening so you should pay attention.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day today for social affairs and for seeing as many friends as you can. Plan how best to gain wishes which you deem to be important to your career activities and can make your efforts successful in the days ahead.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Take advantage of opportunities which arise today in your business world and they could develop into financial positives. Advancement is possible in your career activities if you gain recognition from a bigwig.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.



# Jordan's future prosperity seen depending on creating an investment-friendly economy with a strong export base

(Continued from page 8)

significant economic slow-down in the oil-exporting states, causing grant assistance and remittance income to decline in Jordan. The growth of the boom years was not self-sustainable due to the excessive reliance on foreign assistance and foreign labour markets, and after a few years of accumulating costly foreign commercial debt, Jordan began to experience successive years of weak and negative growth.

By the time the economic crisis bottomed out, per capita income had declined from the \$2,250 peak of the boom years to \$1,080 in 1991. The process of recovery was greatly retarded by the 1991 Gulf war, which witnessed the return of more than 300,000 Jordanians from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and caused unemployment to soar to 25 per cent.

Jordan has rebounded in remarkable fashion, and recent economic performance has been impressive. Real GDP rose by 16 per cent in 1992, 5.9 per cent in 1993, 5.8 per cent in 1994, and 6.4 per cent in 1995, fuelled by a construction boom, rapid increases in exports, strong rebounds in several other sectors from the recession of 1990-91, and a major expansion of remittances from Jordanians returning home as a consequence of the Gulf war.

These successive years of strong growth are also a direct result of the government's economic adjustment programme and the improved political situation in the region, which are stimulating increased and more efficient investments. These are creating jobs at a rate which has cut unemployment in half from its Gulf crisis peak.

The World Bank indicated that the aforementioned economic history "illustrates three truths" which are:

First, a healthy private sector driven by market-oriented principles is essential to maintain long-term economic growth. The government is responding to this need with reform policies that reward the professional and entrepreneurial talents of the Jordanian people. An expanding private sector is stimulating job creation and building the production base that is essential to future prosperity.

Second, dependence on regional labour markets and official assistance creates unnecessary vulnerability to political and economic shocks. As recent events in Jordan have demonstrated, these shocks can wreak economic havoc. Jordan is responding to the lesson by developing its export trade with countries outside the region and shifting incentives toward the export of goods and services rather

than people.

Third, peace and political stability are prerequisites for long-term economic development. The wars that have rocked the Middle East have deterred private investment and encouraged capital flight, while necessitating some of the highest per capita military expenditures in the world. This has had a crippling effect on all of the economies of the region. The peace process has laid the foundation for the establishment of a politically stable, business-friendly environment that has the potential to reverse the debilitating trends of the past.

By initiating policies designed to attract private capital while gradually reallocating resources away from national defence to more productive ventures, Jordan is laying the basis for an economic renaissance.

Jordan's relationship with the World Bank dates back to 1962 when the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's soft loan arm was invited to assist the Kingdom in financing a water and sewer project for Amman.

Since supporting that initial investment, the World Bank and IDA have provided assistance as partners in 55 projects.

Total lending commitments through mid-1996 approached \$1.4 billion with about \$500 million committed for ongoing projects. Outstanding amounts at the end of June 1996 were about \$700 million. Mr. Sud explained, pointing out that Jordan was repaying about the same amount as it is getting in new financing.

These funds have been used to help the government finance investments in priority areas of infrastructure development such as energy, water, mining and transport, as well as in human resource development through programmes in education, vocational training, and health.

Since 1989 the World Bank has added a series of

quick-disbursing adjustment loans that are designed to assist the government with sectoral reforms in energy, water, and agriculture, and with the macro-economic

restructuring that is currently taking place.

The World Bank is working with the government and other donors on a number of projects that span a broad

range of economic sectors. In addition, the World Bank has extended millions of dollars in grants to Jordan for environmental improvements and institution-

strengthening, and has administered millions more in grants from other sources for pollution control and other environmental protection.

WORLD BANK LOANS AND IDA CREDITS		US\$ (million)	
Year	Project	World Bank	IDA
1962	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1964	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1966	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1968	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1970	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1972	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1974	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1976	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1978	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1980	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1982	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1984	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1986	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1988	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1990	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1992	Water Supply	3.0	3.0
1994	Amman Water	1.0	1.0
1996	Water Supply	3.0	3.0

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22 OCT 1996									
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P	C	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	PRICE	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE
252.000	205.000	ALPS BANK	13.6	1.21	42	252.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.250	880	MIC EAST INV. BK.	11.6	1.20	1	1.250	100.00	100.00	100.00
5.250	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.6	1.25	1	5.250	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.040	2.550	JOR. KIWAT BANK	18.5	1.22	1	1.040	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.300	850	JOR. GULF BANK	15.4	1.23	1	1.300	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.950	3.500	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.3	1.20	1	3.950	100.00	100.00	100.00
4.480	3.100	JOP. ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	1.20	1	4.480	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.810	1.530	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	17.9	1.20	1	3.810	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FTR. BANK	17.4	1.20	1	3.800	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.380	1.930	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITHA)	17.2	1.20	1	3.380	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.640	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	1.20	1	1.640	100.00	100.00	100.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2.910	2.080	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.6	10.00	6	2.910	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.050	2.120	YARMOUK INSUR.	9	1.22	1	3.050	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.500	1.850	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.7	1.22	1	2.500	100.00	100.00	100.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS									
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PHR.	11.1	1.20	1	1.900	100.00	100.00	100.00
6.050	4.650	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	18.4	1.20	1	6.050	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.050	1.050	KATEL. PORTFOLIO	9	1.20	1	2.050	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.590	1.150	MOULIN INDUSTRIES	24.4	1.20	1	1.590	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.380	1.630	MID. EAST HOTELS	70.7	1.20	1	2.380	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.680	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	12.5	1.20	1	3.680	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.350	860	ZABRA EDUCATION	9	1.20	1	1.350	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	9	1.20	1	2.430	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.200	820	UNION LAND DEV.	9	1.20	1	1.200	100.00	100.00	100.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	16.9	1.20	1	3.770	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.550	2.710	JOR. PROSPERITY WIPES	13.4	1.20	1	3.550	100.00	100.00	100.00
5.960	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.7	1.20	1	5.960	100.00	100.00	100.00
10.650	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	1.20	1	10.650	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.590	1.150	MOULIN INDUSTRIES	24.4	1.20	1	1.590	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.750	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGP.	29.7	1.20	1	3.750	100.00	100.00	100.00
4.870	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	18.6	1.20	1	4.870	100.00	100.00	100.00
6.450	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	1.20	1	6.450	100.00	100.00	100.00
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	1.20	1	5.800	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.960	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	1.20	1	1.960	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.890	2.590	GENERAL INVESTMENT	6.6	1.20	1	2.890	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.100	1.410	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	1.20	1	2.100	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.090	620	NATIONAL INDS.	9.2	1.20	1	1.090	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.150	830	JOR. ROADMILL INDS.	7.1	1.20	1	1.150	100.00	100.00	100.00
6.450	5.650	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	10.1	1.20	1	6.450	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.050	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	24.3	1.20	1	2.050	100.00	100.00	100.00
3.280	1.520	UNIV. MODN INDS.	4.6	1.20	1	3.280	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.100	1.140	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	17.8	1.20	1	1.100	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.590	860	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.4	1.20	1	1.590	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.490	1.090	INTL. TOBACCO	20.1	1.20	1	1.490	100.00	100.00	100.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 116.45	CHG: -1.27	116.45	116.45	116.45	116.45	116.45	116.45	116.45	116.45
GRAND TOTAL									
INDEX: 149.22	CHG: -1.49	149.22	149.22	149.22	149.22	149.22	149.22	149.22	149.22
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22 OCT 1996									
1.950	440	UNIL. CONCRETE CENTERS	70.8	1.20	1	1.950	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.940	700	UNION INV. CO.	9	1.20	1	1.940	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.120	800	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	1.20	1	1.120	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.640	340	JOR. INDS. MATCH-GENCO	9	1.20	1	1.640	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.910	810	ARAB FOOD & HED.	9	1.20	1	1.910	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.760	1.360	NATL. CHLORINE	9	1.20	1	1.760	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.710	480	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	1.20	1	1.710	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.080	810	NATL. TEXTILE	9	1.20	1	1.080	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.100	510	NATL. INV. ENG. MANICO	9	1.20	1	1.100	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.080	770	JORDAN STEEL	9	1.20	1	1.080	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.850	610	KATEL. PORTFOLIO	9	1.20	1	1.850	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.450	770	INDS. CERAMIC	9	1.20	1	1.450	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.890	610	NATL. POULTRY	9	1.20	1	1.890	100.00	100.00	100.00
1.150	810	UNION LAND DEV.	9	1.20	1	1.150	100.00	100.00	100.00
5.500	3.600	ARAB STEEL PIPES	9.5	1.20	1	5.500	100.00	100.00	100.00
GRAND TOTAL									
INDEX: 136	CHG: -1.27	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136

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## Dostum links truce to Taliban leaving Kabul

OMAZAR-E-SHARIF

(Agencies) — The Afghan faction led by northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum has demanded the Taliban militia leave Kabul, saying no ceasefire agreement would be reached otherwise, his chief spokesman said Tuesday.

"If the Taliban do not agree to our terms and do not leave Kabul they will be responsible for future fighting," Mohammad Yousef told reporters.

"We have found evidence that foreign trainers are supporting the Taliban to continue the war, but I do not want to name the country which is interfering," he added.

Mr. Yousef said the faction wants a U.N. peacekeeping force for Kabul or the presence of another neutral force.

He warned the Taliban that attacks on territory held by General Dostum would lead to retaliation.

Mr. Yousef said the Supreme Council for the Defence of Afghanistan (SCDA) supports the introduction of a U.N. peacekeeping force for Kabul or the presence of a neutral force that had not been involved in any fighting.

Forces loyal to ousted Afghan government chief Ahmad Shah Masood were fighting their way towards the strategic Khair Khana Pass on Tuesday on the main road into the Afghan capital.

"We have orders to move forward and take the pass," Sabir, one of Mr. Masood's commanders in the frontline village of Hussein Kot, 15 kilometres north of Kabul, told reporters.

He said fighting overnight had dislodged Taliban forces from the west side of the pass but said the Taliban, who captured Kabul late last month, still controlled the main road.

Other Masood fighters said

the Taliban, a kilometre south of the command post, had two tanks up on the hill. A shell crashed a few metres behind Mr. Sabir's control post, sending up a large cloud of yellow dust. One of his tanks made a deafening reply.

On the other side of the front-line, Reuters correspondent Patrick de Noirmont reported earlier on Tuesday that Taliban fighters poured rockets into positions held by Mr. Masood to the north and in villages to the west.

Doubt about where the frontline is on maps has led to confusion over whether Hussein Kot was in Mr. Masood's or Taliban hands.

Some locals said the name applied to a string of villages along the road, parts of which may be held by each side.

Morale was high among Mr. Masood's forces.

"Perhaps we will take Khair Khana tonight," said Faisal Ahmad, 18, wearing a long brown shirt over his combat trousers and leaning on a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

The pass is important because it would give Mr. Masood's Jamiat-e-Islami army command of the heights along the main road into Kabul.

Mr. Masood made a lightning advance against the Taliban last week, pushing the militia back down through the flat territory south of the crucial Salang Pass.

But this week, attempts to negotiate a ceasefire and the Taliban's strong positions in a further cluster of mountains north of Kabul have slowed Mr. Masood down.

Further up the road beyond the command post, smoke rose from the charred wreckage of a Mercedes bus, hit by a rocket earlier on Tuesday morning.

"Two boys were badly

wounded, said Mahmoud Hojon, a doctor at a crumbling field hospital in Hussein Kot. He said the other passengers had managed to escape the bus when a rocket landed nearby minutes earlier.

The doctor said a total of 12 people had been wounded overnight but he knew of no dead.

Dostum spokesman Yousef, meanwhile, warned that if the Taliban attack "areas in the north" the northern forces would respond.

This is the first time that Gen. Dostum has directly accused the Taliban of having foreign sponsors or announced the exact demand for a ceasefire.

The announcement came after a four-hour meeting of the SCDA during which representatives were elected for the council from all Afghan provinces.

The Supreme Council, which is headed by Gen. Dostum, includes Mr. Masood, Mohammad Karim Khalili, chief of Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction, and Pir Sayed Gailani, head of his National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

The SCDA meeting — held in the 19th century Qala Jahgi Fort 15 kilometres west of here — was attended by Gen. Dostum, his deputy Abdul Rahman, Haji Mohammad Moqek, a Wahdat official, and Hamid Gailani, son of Pir Gailani.

Mr. Yousef said that 153 delegates from Afghanistan's 31 provinces were elected, including members for areas under the Taliban control.

The delegates include Haji Abdul Qader, former governor in eastern Jalalabad, and Ismael Khan, former governor of Herat.

Sources close to Gen. Dostum said that a Taliban withdrawal from Kabul was not expected.



Afghan Taliban fighters prepare rockets to be launched towards the positions of ousted Afghan military chief Ahmad Shah Masood in the village of Hussein Kot, 18 kilometres north of Kabul (Reuters photo)

## Israelis kill 2 Palestinians

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian near here Tuesday a day after Palestinians accused Jewish settlers of killing another man in the same area. Palestinian sources said.

Witnesses said Abdullah Abdul Raouf, 19, was shot and killed during a confrontation with Israeli soldiers in the village of Sinjil north of Ramallah.

The shooting occurred during protests in the village over the shooting death late Monday of another Palestinian on a road used by Jewish settlers.

Ramallah hospital officials said that man, Fathi Ali Al Sahuri, 43, died from a gunshot wound to the head. Palestinian sources said Sahuri was driving his car near the settlement of Ofra north of Ramallah when settlers opened fire on him from a white car with an Israeli license plate. A passenger in the car was injured by bullet fragments, hospital officials said.

The deaths were the first around Ramallah since unprecedented clashes late last month between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police and protesters left more than 80 dead across the Palestinian territories.

The latest violence began in Ramallah when Israeli soldiers fired on protesters outside the town.

Tuesday's violence came as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in the city to prepare for a visit by French President Jacques Chirac the next day.

Meanwhile, an Israeli was shot at, presumably by Palestinians, while driving out-

side the self-rule area of Jenin, north of Ramallah.

The army said it was searching the area on Tuesday after the Israeli reported at an army checkpoint outside the city the night before that he had been shot at, showing bullet holes in his car.

### Settlers dumb tea on Dayan

A Jewish settler tossed scalding tea in the face of a Labour Party member of parliament Tuesday during a fact-finding mission to Hebron.

Yael Dayan was being interviewed by Palestinian journalists when she was attacked by a man wearing a skullcap, witnesses said.

"A man wearing a kippa came up to me and asked if I wanted a cup of tea then he threw the scalding tea at my face," she said. Ms. Dayan said she suffered light to moderate burns on her face and chest, "but there's no reason to worry about my health."

Police briefly detained the attacker but then released him, drawing protests from members of Ms. Dayan's delegation.

Hebron has been the scene of almost daily protests in recent days by settlers and other Israeli right-wingers opposed to any Israeli withdrawal from the city, which under the 1995 Oslo peace accords is due to be handed over to the Palestinian self-rule government.

## Iraqi law permits private sector exports, imports

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Tuesday that parliament has drafted a law allowing businessmen to export products and import raw material needed to revive paralysed industries despite U.N. sanctions against such trade.

Under the law, which President Saddam Hussein must approve, businessmen and "industrialists will be able for the first time since 1990 to export 51 products," the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper said.

The products include horses, wool, leather, marble, ceramics, rugs, and leather clothing, mineral water and works by Iraqi writers.

"Iraqi industrialists meanwhile can import natural resources and equipment needed to develop existing projects and create new projects," the daily said.

The embargo on trade and oil which the United Nations adopted after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has helped the Iraqi economy survive.

The chairman of the Union of Iraqi Industries, Adnan Al Qodsi, told AFP that "this draft law will allow industrialists to import natural resources needed to revive their factories, which have been paralysed for years."

The draft law is in line with President Saddam's recommendations for encouraging the private sector "despite the conditions created by the embargo." More than 80 per cent of factories have been paralysed by the embargo.

### Italy to open office

Italy has agreed to open an interests section in Baghdad in a step toward normalising diplomatic relations which Iraq broke during the 1991 Gulf war, official sources said Tuesday.

"Italian diplomat Cesare Regalini is expected in the next few days to head his country's interests section," visiting Italian diplomat Antonio Loche said in remarks published in Iraq's official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper.

Mr. Loche, who held talks Monday with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to brief him on Rome's decision, said the "Hungarian embassy in Baghdad will house the interests section."

A well-informed Iraqi source said Baghdad has decided to send a diplomat to preside over an Iraqi interests section in Rome.

Baghdad broke diplomatic relations with Rome after the Gulf war began in January 1991. Italy was part of the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the war. The head of the foreign relations department in the Iraqi parliament, Saad Qassem Hammoudi, said: "Rome's decision is a step in the right direction to prepare for normalisation between the two countries."

An Italian foreign ministry delegation travelled to Baghdad in February to visit the Italian embassy buildings which have been closed for the past five years.

Egyptian, French, Jordanian, Spanish and Sudanese delegations have visited Iraq since Baghdad signed an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations on May 20.

The agreement, which has not yet been implemented, allows Baghdad to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine as well as defray U.N. costs and pay for war reparations, but under strict control.



## Oscar-winning figures returned

NEW YORK (R) — Wallace and Gromit, two plasticine figures that starred in last year's Oscar-winning short A Close Shave, were returned to their creator Monday after being left in the trunk of a taxi over the weekend. British creator Nick Park said Wallace and his dog Gromit were returned Monday morning by the taxi driver who drove park to his Manhattan hotel Saturday when he arrived in New York for a publicity tour. "I couldn't believe it," Mr. Park told Reuters television. "He didn't seem to want to stick around. I shook his hand, offered him an award, but he wouldn't hear of it." Mr. Park, who described the unidentified cab driver as "Extremely decent," said he thought he would never again see the original Wallace and Gromit figures on their red motorcycle and sidecar after leaving them in a case in the trunk of the taxi. A porter at the hotel failed to notice the case in the cab's trunk and the driver drove away with them. Mr. Park said he spent the rest of the weekend calling police precincts and taxi companies, faxing them drawings of the 23-centimetre figures, among the best-loved animated screen stars in Britain and the United States. The puppets have starred in such hit short films as The Wrong Trousers, A Grand Day Out, and A Close Shave, which won an Oscar in 1996 for best animated short film.

## Degeneres to host 1997 Grammys

NEW YORK (R) — Comedian Ellen Degeneres will host the Grammy Awards in 1997, when the music awards ceremony returns to New York City, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced Monday. The event will take place on Feb. 26 at the Madison Square Garden arena. Degeneres, nominated for an Emmy Award for hosting last year's Grammys, stars in the television situation comedy Ellen. This fall, the show's creators teased viewers and the media with hints that her character would reveal herself to be a lesbian. "I'm very, very proud to announce that I will be coming out..." she said in a taped statement shown at a news conference Monday, allowing a dramatic pause, "to New York."

## Magazine 'curse' hits celebrity

LONDON (AFP) — The "curse" of Hello! celebrity magazine has struck an English earl and countess who were threatened by armed burglars in their luxury London home days after it featured in the magazine, it emerged Tuesday. The robbery was the latest in a series of misfortunes that have befallen the rich and the famous who have agreed to be interviewed by the glossy weekly. The Duke and Duchess of York split up after being featured in the magazine, as did supermodel Helena Christensen and boyfriend Michael Hutchence of the Australian rock group Inxs, and Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, and Mandy Smith. Will Carling, former England rugby captain and former close friend of Princess Diana, also appeared in Hello! with his then wife Julia. The couple's divorce came through last summer. On Tuesday, the Earl and Countess of Dudley were recovering from the robbery at their Victorian home in the exclusive Kensington area of London. The 76-year-old earl and his wife, Maureen Swanson — the former 1950s film star — were held at knifepoint and locked in a room after disturbing the pair of intruders on Sunday night. The burglars escaped with a quantity of jewellery. The crime came just eight days after the couple posed together in the house for the magazine.

## Tunisian investigator in Belgium for Cools case

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Tunisian examining magistrate arrived in the eastern Belgian city of Liege on Tuesday to continue his probe into the murder of Belgium's former Deputy Prime Minister Andre Cools.

Noureddine Ben Ayed was leading a preliminary investigation into the murder, for which two Tunisians — Abdul Majid Almi and Abdul Jelil Ben Brahim — have been charged. The pair were arrested in Tunisia on Oct. 2.

Cools was gunned down in a Liege suburb on July 18, 1991 outside the home of his girlfriend, who was seriously wounded in the attack.

Seven other people are currently being detained in Belgium in connection with the case. They include former Minister Alain Van Der Biest, who has denied accusations that he ordered the assassination.

Mr. Van der Biest and five of his aides were arrested in September. A seventh man, Jachino Contrino, was arrested on Monday and is accused of having checked out the scene ahead of the killing.

Asked in a television interview whether the two suspected killers had named any of the Belgian suspects during interrogation, Mr. Ben Ayed replied: "Yes, they gave me some names."

But the magistrate declined to give any further information on the progress of his inquiry.

"Nothing been ruled out. All hypotheses remain plausible, even a fundamentalist link," he said, referring to the possibility that extremists may have been behind the killing.

Tunisian judicial authorities said earlier this month that members of fundamentalist networks in Belgium could be implicated in Cools' assassination, without stipulating in what way.

However, that theory does not fit with the statements given so far by the chief suspects.

After their arrest, Almi, 19, and Ben Brahim, 26, said they had been recruited by "a man of European nationality."

## Pentagon notifying 20,000 of possible chemical exposure

HINGTON (AFP) — The Pentagon said Tuesday it was notifying 20,000 Gulf war soldiers that they may have been exposed to chemical weapons released in the demolition of an Iraqi munitions dump.

The soldiers were within a 50 kilometre radius of the Kamisiyah munitions dump in southern Iraq when U.S. troops inadvertently destroyed chemical weapons stored there, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bhacon said.

"We are in the process of notifying approximately 20,000 soldiers who either participated in the destruc-

tion of Iraqi munitions at Kamisiyah in March of 1991 or were in the vicinity," Mr. Bacon said.

The Pentagon first gave an initial estimate of 150 to 400 soldiers possibly exposed. But Mr. Bacon said earlier this month the figure would "certainly" be more than 15,000, encompassing two sites destroyed separately on March 4 and March 10, 1991.

As a further potential embarrassment for the Pentagon, the New York Times reported on Saturday that U.S. military commanders during the Gulf war ignored data that unprotected

U.S. troops were exposed to chemicals.

The Times, citing a Czech army officer, said Czech detection teams operating in northern Saudi Arabia in 1991 were convinced that nerve gas detected in the early days of the conflict came from Iraqi chemical plants that the U.S. forces had bombed.

The question has become an emotional one because more than 20,000 soldiers of the war report suffering from a variety of ailments known collectively as Gulf war syndrome. Studies have concluded that the symptoms do not

have a single cause, but the discovery more than five years after the fact that U.S. troops may have been exposed to low levels of nerve gas has shaken that conclusion.

The Pentagon had come under growing criticism from Gulf war veterans, U.S. newspaper editorials, and a presidential panel for its reluctant release of information about possible nerve gas exposure.

But Mr. Bacon has dismissed suggestions that the intention was to put off the results until after the U.S. presidential elections Nov. 5.

## Bosnian Serb leader signs oath of allegiance

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian Serb leader Momilo Krajisnik signed an oath of allegiance to Bosnia on Tuesday at the inaugural session of the country's newly elected collective presidency.

Mr. Krajisnik signed the oath which his Muslim and Croat partners in the top ruling body signed earlier this month, said a Western journalist present during the brief ceremony in Sarajevo.

Muslim presidency member Alija Izetbegovic and his Croat counterpart Kresimir Zubak also agreed with Mr. Krajisnik to meet again twice within the next 10 days. One of these meetings will be in a Serb-controlled part of the city.

Since being elected in last month's general elections the collective presidency has failed to meet because of disagreements over where and when the ruling body should convene.

U.S. warns Serbs

The United States, acknowledging a decision to postpone municipal elections in Bosnia, warned the Bosnian Serbs Tuesday to cooperate with the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in organising the

vote next year or face international isolation.

The State Department also recognised that the decision by the OSCE to postpone the local poll would be taken into account when North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) decides whether to keep troops in Bosnia.

"This decision to postpone the municipal elections certainly is a factor in the ongoing NATO study to determine what kind of follow-on security presence if any will be required post in 1997," spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

The U.S. response came after Robert Frowick, the OSCE's representative in Bosnia, announced in Sarajevo that the municipal vote scheduled for Nov. 23 and 24 would be postponed until next year due to "continuing political problems" in Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb leadership has openly challenged the right of the OSCE to supervise the local elections in territory they control. "Rather than holding the elections under these circumstances, we respect the OSCE's decision to postpone them," Mr. Burns said.

## Yemen sets deadline for diplomat's kidnappers

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen on Tuesday told members of a tribe who kidnapped a French diplomat to free him by Wednesday night or else be attacked by security forces, a senior government official said.

The deadline, announced by Abdul Wali Al Shumairi, governor of Maarib, ends on Wednesday midnight (2100 GMT). The diplomat is being kept in the Maarib area by several members of the Touayman tribe who seized him in the capital Sanaa on Monday.

"After midnight Wednesday, our forces will occupy the homes of the Jihm tribe," the governor said.

"We do not fear for the life of the hostage. The kidnappers won't dare try anything because we've arrested dozens of members of their tribe," Mr. Shumairi said. "We will carry out more arrests right up until the deadline."

He said the authorities had ruled out any negotiation of the demands made by the Jihm tribe until the diplomat kidnapped from Sanaa is freed. The leader of the kidnappers was named as Mubarak Al Moushann Al Zaedi.

"Security authorities arrested 18 members of the Al Touayman tribe to put pressure on the abductors," a security official told Reuters.

"Most of the arrests were made in Maarib, a few in Sanaa," he added.

Security officials said on Monday the kidnappers took the diplomat to the province of Maarib, 170 kilometres north of Sanaa, but later said they were still trying to determine the location where he is being held.

Governor Shumairi had said the diplomat's car had been spotted in Maarib by local police before they were informed of his abduction.

No details were available on the identity of the diplomat. The Touayman tribe earlier this month hijacked the car of Yemen's minister of agriculture and kidnapped his driver in Sanaa. The minister was not in the car at the time. The driver was beaten up and later set free.

The tribe demanded then that the government provide it with water pumps and drilling equipment for wells in Maarib.

In recent years, tribes in Yemen with grievances against the government or foreign oil firms have kidnapped tourists or foreigners for use as bargaining chips.

At least two diplomats, an American and a Saudi ambassador, have been among the kidnappers' victims.

The tribes' demands have usually involved land or water issues, and have rarely been political. There have been no reported casualties from the abductions.

In January, members of a tribe kidnapped 17 elderly French tourists in Maarib who were later released.

Leaders of the Jihm tribe in the Maarib region were also involved in mediation efforts to win the release of the diplomat.

The diplomat was reported to be "in good health and treated well" by his captors in eastern Yemen, the police officer added.

"Many security forces have surrounded the kidnappers but we have not wanted to attack in order to protect the diplomat's life," an official told AFP.

He said that the kidnappers wanted to force the government to compensate them for homes that were damaged or destroyed in floods this year.